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# THE TIMES

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## Peace camp protesters must leave

A High Court judge has ordered women anti-nuclear campaigners to leave their "peace camp" at Greenham Common, near Newbury, Berkshire, where they have been protesting for eight months about plans to site cruise missiles there. Earlier, 22 protesters were ordered to leave a demonstration outside the Law Courts.

## Jenkins boosts Owen's chance

Mr Roy Jenkins praised Dr David Owen's performance in the Commons as the Social Democratic Party spokesman during the Falklands debates (Our Political Editor writes). Dr Owen's contributions have transformed him into a strong challenger for the party leadership. Back page

## Reardon through to seventh final

Ray Reardon of Wales, six times world snooker champion, has won through to his seventh final by beating Eddie Charlton of Australia 16-11 in the 31 frame semi-final at the Crucible theatre in Sheffield. Page 18

## Pretoria blamed

Namibian blacks are not afraid of Swapo guerrillas but they are petrified of the South African security forces, according to a report by the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference. Page 5

## Space docking

Two Soviet cosmonauts boarded an orbiting space station as a first step in preparing to receive a joint Soviet-French crew next month, Tass said. The spacecraft docked with the Salyut-7 station at 1136GMT.

## Leaks decision

The Commons liaison select committee has decided that no formal action will be taken for the time being against newspapers which publish leaked select committee reports. Page 3

## Caning may end

A recent judgment in the European Court of Human Rights has led to an apparent acceptance by many head teachers in Britain that the days of caning are numbered. Page 2

## Power threat

Industrial action, short of a total stoppage, is looming in the electricity industry. Power union leaders believe a 7 per cent pay offer has been rejected in a secret ballot. Rail action, page 3

## Oil tax defended

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, dismissed claims that oil taxes were discouraging North Sea development. He conceded, however, that the off-shore oil construction industry was facing a difficult period. Page 13

## Connors injury

Jimmy Connors had to retire from the German championship when he twisted his ankle playing Andres Gomez of Ecuador. It will be fortnight before he can play again. Page 18



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## Task force awaits go-ahead for Falklands landing

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

● In Whitehall the expectation of a landing soon on the Falklands by British troops was growing after the latest series of consultations between the Government and its military advisers.

● At the United Nations, Senor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General, said he hoped to receive final answers within 36 hours from Britain and Argentina to his proposals.

● At a meeting of Conservatives in Perth Mrs Thatcher denied that a "sell-out" was being contemplated. The Government would keep its military options open while trying to negotiate a settlement.

● In Moscow, Sir Curtis Keeble, the British Ambassador, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, was informed that the Soviet Union regarded Britain's exclusion zones in the South Atlantic as illegal interference with freedom on the high seas.

● The expectation of an imminent British landing in the Falkland Islands was growing in Whitehall last night following the latest series of consultations between the Government and its military advisers.

Rear-Admiral John Woodward and his task force are understood to be ready and waiting for the order to move and to be confident of success.

The Government remains unlikely to give such order at least until the results of the United Nations peace initiative are known, either tonight or early tomorrow.

But sources are not optimistic about the chances of a satisfactory outcome, with Nato support for Britain still apparently sound, a landing is now the most favoured military option, with a blockade coming a very poor second.

Time is now said to be on Britain's side with the window of opportunity for Admiral Woodward and his men opening wider daily as more reinforcements trickle in after the 8,000-mile voyage from home.

"We are not yet at the stage of saying 'We must act now'," according to one official who pointed out that the task force could remain in position for several more weeks if needed.

Moreover few if any supplies are believed to have got through to the 9,000-man Argentine garrison in the Falklands, only about 1,000 of whom are said to be seasoned troops, trained to endure the worsening Falkland winter on sparse rations and under continual harassment from the British task force.

There is said to be a 50-foot crater bisecting the Port Stanley runway after the British air raids.

But there is a growing feeling that the window of opportunity is already open wide enough for an assault to be contemplated, sooner rather than later and that the preparations for such an option are well advanced.

arrived to give a total of fewer than 3,000.

But they have light artillery and Rapier anti-aircraft missiles with them and have the advantage of being able to choose their spot from one of many potential landing sites along the long Falklands coastline.

It is generally believed that an advanced party of the Royal Marines Special Boat Service and the Special Air Service has already been in the islands and to have reported back by radio to Admiral Woodward and his staff.

At least one of the Argentine navy's three submarines is believed to be in the area, probably hiding on the seabed, and the task force must feel uneasy about its suspected presence as they contemplate moving forward.

Moreover, the Argentine air force already has shown itself capable of reaching the British ships from mainland bases, even if its bombers have had only partial success.

The number of Argentine air-launched Exocet missiles like that which sank HMS Sheffield last week, is thought to be less than half a dozen, and attempts by the junta to procure more on the world arms market are understood so far to have been unsuccessful. (That is, one of the main reasons for organising a landing in the near rather than the distant future.)

Moreover, the British Sea Harriers would mount a continuous screen around the task force during an amphibious landing.

Meanwhile, the difficult terrain in the islands should impede Argentine reinforcements if drafted from another part of East or West Falkland to help oppose the establishment of a British bridgehead.

There is certainly more confidence now than there was a short time ago that the task force is capable of securing at least part of the whole of the Falkland Islands without suffering unacceptable casualties.

The Prime Minister told her audience that she hoped the negotiations would succeed. "I do not want one more life lost in the South Atlantic, whether Argentine or British, if it can be avoided," she said.

"Of course we will continue to negotiate. We will go on doing all we humanly can to reach a peaceful settlement—a settlement in which the Argentines leave the islands they now unlawfully occupy."

"But I should not be doing my duty if I did not warn you that the simplest and clearest terms that, for all our efforts, those of Secretary Haig and those of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, a negotiated settlement may prove unattainable."

"Then we should have to turn to the only course left open to us, and that is why, as I have repeatedly said in the House of Commons, the Government has done nothing in its attempt to find a diplomatic solution which forecloses any military action now or any military option for the future."

The Prime Minister's speech shed no fresh light on



Landing exercise: British troops train on Ascension Island

## Thatcher on 'only course left open'

By Our Political Editor

The Prime Minister warned Scottish Conservatives last night that a negotiated settlement with Argentina of the Falkland Islands dispute might prove unattainable.

"The difficulties we face are formidable, but our determination to secure a just solution is relentless," she said.

Mrs Thatcher was addressing the annual conference of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party in Perth at a time when she and her colleagues still had no indication from Sir Anthony Parsons, the British representative at the United Nations, that the Argentine Government had moved from its position of setting the island's sovereignty to Argentina and is not subject to negotiation.

The Prime Minister told her audience that she hoped the negotiations would succeed. "I do not want one more life lost in the South Atlantic, whether Argentine or British, if it can be avoided," she said.

"Of course we will continue to negotiate. We will go on doing all we humanly can to reach a peaceful settlement—a settlement in which the Argentines leave the islands they now unlawfully occupy."

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## Moscow rebukes Britain

By Our Political Editor

The Soviet Union told Britain officials today that its closure of sea lanes around the Falkland Islands was illegal interference with freedom of the high seas.

Tass, the official news agency, said the Soviet view was put to the British Ambassador, Sir Curtis Keeble, at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, the Soviet Union, the statement said, considers British warnings to keep ships out of the area "unacceptable and provocative".

"These actions clearly contradict the 1958 convention on the high sea and consequently are regarded by the Soviet side as unlawful," Britain had warned the Soviet Union several times to stay out of the closed zone but these warnings were "absolutely out of place".

They were intended to paint a false picture of Soviet involvement in the struggle of the Falkland Islands, Tass said. There were not the slightest grounds for such allegations and this was well known in London.—UPI.

● In London, the Foreign Office said a formal response was under study. "The total exclusion zone remains in operation. The zone is being enforced under our right of self defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter."

● Falkland Islanders should be granted full British citizenship, on a par with the Gibraltarians, as soon as the crisis ends, said Mr Nicholas Winterton, MP, secretary of the Parliamentary Committee for the Falklands.

## Chile offers ship to take injured

From Florence Varas Santiago, May 14

The Chilean Government has offered to send a ship to the Falklands to evacuate wounded Argentine soldiers and civilians to the South American continent, Senor Rene Rojas Galdames, the Chilean Foreign Minister, said. He added that this gesture, made within the context of Chilean neutrality in the crisis, already had received support in "very clear and positive" terms from the British Ambassador in Santiago.

The Foreign Minister insisted, however, that Chile "has never had the intention of playing the role of mediator in this crisis".

Unofficial sources said that the ship would only enter the war zone after agreement had been reached between Britain and Argentina to determine a safe route to the Falklands.

## UN seeks to curtail 'endless talks'

From Zoriana Pyysiawsky, New York, May 14

Diplomatic sources said that following a basic agreement on the framework for a peaceful solution, the talks were now at their most difficult and arduous stage in terms of settling the intricate technical points, regarding provisions for a ceasefire, mutual withdrawal, an interim administration for the islands and guidelines for future negotiations on sovereignty.

Although the crucial issue of sovereignty did not have a direct role to play in the talks themselves, since the Secretary-General said this is something for the two parties to settle at a later date. It was, however, a background issue that the negotiations and threatened their breakdown.

The Secretary-General is expected to continue meeting with Sir Anthony Parsons, the British delegate, and Senor Enrique Ros, the Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister.

It appeared that the Secretary-General had not yet reached the conclusion that the prospects were indeed hopeless. He said: "Things are not too bad", the sides are much closer than when the exercise began, and there was hope that the difficulties could be ironed out.

## Heroes' welcome for prisoners

From Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires, May 14

An aged grey trooper carrier, the Pito Alsina, brought 188 Argentine prisoners back to Buenos Aires today.

It entered one of the many small attractive harbours in the city's precisely on time at 11 am. to be greeted by 1,500 relatives. The authorities lifted all the normal restrictions on journalists and members of the public so that they could witness the emotional homecoming.

The men, captured when British forces retook South Georgia on April 25, included 50 crewmen of the submarine Santa Fe and 39 scrap metal workers who had been dismantling an old whaling station.

They were flown from Ascension Island to Montevideo, Uruguay, in an aircraft chartered by the Red Cross and handed over to the Argentine authorities yesterday.

## Panorama man dropped after letter to Times

By Kenneth Gosling

Mr Robert Kee, the presenter of *Panorama*, has been dropped from next Monday's programme after his controversial letter to *The Times* yesterday commenting on the content of the edition earlier this week.

In a statement about next Monday's edition, which Mr Richard Landsey will present, the BBC said Mr Kee had a meeting yesterday with Mr George Carey, the editor of *Panorama*, but nothing had been resolved. There would be further talks. Mr Kee was appointed to *Panorama* on a year's contract last January.

In his letter to *The Times* he attacked last Monday's programme, in which he appeared, as "poor objective journalism".

The BBC statement also said that "the whole question is under consideration and we shall be talking to Robert Kee about his position in the light of the letter to *The Times*".

Mr Kee himself said yesterday: "I feel I would rather leave it at that for now."

*Panorama* is returning to the subject of the Falklands crisis next week and, the BBC said, "will present people's opinions on the military options".

● The Prince of Wales, without directly naming Argentina, yesterday attacked totalitarian regimes which "control the dissemination of information and grossly distort the facts to suit their opportunist requirements". He was speaking at Milton Keynes.

He added: "To add the final insult to injury they jam the broadcasts of those outside their borders who are transmitting what they know and fear to be the truth."

The Prince was receiving an honorary doctorate and opening a new BBC studio at the Open University.

## One-year truce on EEC budget

By Julian Haviland Political Editor

The British Government is ready for a truce in its three-year fight to change the structure of the European Community's budget. The decision has been taken partly in order to maintain the willing support of Britain's partners in the European Community while the crisis over the Falkland Islands continues; and also so that the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary can concentrate their energies on the tortuous negotiations with Argentina.

A confidential letter was sent yesterday by Mr Francis Pym to Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the European Commission, with Mrs Margaret Thatcher's approval, which indicates Britain's willingness to accept an extension for a further 12 months of the temporary arrangements agreed in Luxembourg in May, 1980, for paying Britain special rebates.

There are two conditions: first, that the rebate should be hefty enough to leave Britain making no more than the "modest net contribution" to the Community in 1982 which ministers consider fair; second, that a binding promise should be given by the nine that the task of finding a permanent solution should be taken up again within a very few months and completed by the end of the year.

It may be that the conditions will not be met. The European Commission estimates that Britain would be liable to pay over £900m net in 1982 if no rebate is offered.

Brussels sources say that a rebate of some £450m has been suggested by the Commission in a letter received by the Pym this week. Although no figures are being revealed in London, Mr Pym's reply is believed to stipulate that this offer must be improved by some £200m more.

British ministers continue to insist that there can be no linking of Community decisions on the Falklands, and in particular the renewal of sanctions against Argentina by EEC members, with negotiations over the budget. They are confident that agreement will be reached either by permanent representatives meeting in Brussels today or by foreign ministers tomorrow to renew sanctions from Monday.

They maintain that Britain, as a victim of aggression, is receiving no more than the support that any other Community member would expect if so placed.

But several political considerations blur this formal distinction. The blocking last Tuesday by Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, of a proposed farm price increases has caused much bad blood, not least with the French whose Prime Minister, M Pierre Mauroy, is meeting Mrs Thatcher in Edinburgh today. President Mitterrand will be in London on Monday.

The blocking has been the Government's favoured instrument for compelling permanent structural change in the budget. But ministers fear that it may have blunted in any event British Conservative MEPs.

Continued on back page, col 6

EST. 1830

TEACHER'S.  
A WELCOME  
AWAITING.











# Nott dismisses rumours of Falkland sell-out

From Jonathan Wills, Perth

Demonstrators shouting "Jobs not war" greeted Mr John Nott, the Secretary of State for Defence, when he arrived at the City Hall here yesterday afternoon to address the Conservative Party's Scottish conference. Inside, he received a standing ovation.

He immediately dismissed persistent rumours of an imminent sell-out of the Falklands. "We shall not sell out the Falkland Islanders nor shall we renege on the principles which led Parliament and the people to will the dispatch of our task force."

"A country not very far away from us — the Soviet Union — is watching closely," he said. "If we do not stand firm on this then defence has no meaning. If we are not prepared to fight to defend our territory, then who will stand up to them?"

"The Argentine garrison in the Falklands is now beleaguered. Supply lines are cut. It may be that under cover of darkness or bad weather some supplies are getting in but the amounts are quite insignificant in terms of the needs of the garrison. There are many military options open to us, ranging from a long blockade to a full-scale invasion."

"We are not going to be hurried, even if some newspapers are impatient, but we will never at any stage be stalled by Argentine procrastination. I still hope that major military action will not be necessary," he stated.

Reports from London of a split in the Cabinet carried little weight with delegates in Perth. In their reception of Mr Nott and other speakers, however, they made it amply clear that any hint of a sell-out would produce a split of geological proportions between the party in the country and the government in Westminster.

They gave a standing ovation to Mr Michael Ancram, MP, chairman of the Scottish Conservatives, who declared that "to compromise justice in the interests of peace has always been an easy way out". It was easy for those who did not have to live with the result but a nightmare of oppression to those upon whom it was imposed.

Mr Ancram caught the mood of the conference when

he said: "We could not and must not sell out. For we know that peace bought by inaction does not defuse aggression, it adds fuel to its fire."

Events in Central America occupied the conference earlier in the day. A motion from the Scottish Conservative Candidates Association called on the British Government to remind President Reagan that military support for totalitarian right-wing regimes in Central America would not defeat the march of communism but could only exacerbate the problem.

Mr Raymond Fraser, proposing the motion, had a cool reception when he said that the United States was supporting oligarchy and feudalism in such countries as Guatemala.

"It all becomes an administration that decries repression in Poland to support it in Central America because it is done by right-wing governments," he said.

The conference rejected the motion by a large majority after hearing Mr Malcolm Rifkind MP, Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office. He condemned human rights violations in the region and said that many of the regimes were unacceptable to the British Government, but in certain circumstances it was right to supply military help to countries under external attack.

Mr Thatcher might call an election this autumn to stop the Liberal/SDP alliance rebuilding its strength, Mr Alex Carlisle, the Welsh Liberal Party chairman told Montgomery Liberal Association.

Mr Carlisle said Liberals were worried about government policies in the Falklands dispute. He told the association: "Many Liberals have misgivings about whether force was used earlier than was necessary. The effect of the crisis in the short term may be damaging to the Liberal Party and the SDP."

"It is remarkable that in the circumstances the Liberals did so well in the local elections in England. It shows that Liberal fortunes are not so inextricably intertwined with the SDP that we are bound to stand or fall with them."

## Sea Wolf brings rebuke to BBC

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent  
Westminster

Lord Trenchard, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, yesterday strongly criticized the BBC for inaccurate reports relating to the destruction of the destroyer HMS Sheffield by an Argentine Exocet missile.

He told the House of Lords that the BBC had made the BBC to check with the Ministry, inaccurate information alleging that the destroyer could have been saved if the Ministry had authorized the firing of Sea Wolf missiles. These inaccuracies were not good for the morale of the task force.

Lord Trenchard was being questioned about contents of the Today programme at 7am and 8am on May 11. He said it was clear that the Chairman of the BBC was deeply interested in this situation and was deeply worried about the criticisms that had been made. He was sure that discussions would take place and he hoped that any arrangements could be made so that incidents like this did not take place.

Mr Peter Hill, BBC political correspondent, who gave the broadcast complained, said later: "I was merely reflecting the anxieties of MPs on the Commons defence committee about delays in the Sea Wolf missile." He said that the BBC was not in a position to give evidence given by the Ministry of Defence to the committee and followed up in published questions and answers — and given new urgency by the loss of a Royal Naval ship.

He had never suggested, he said, that Sea Wolf could have been fitted to the Sheffield; simply that, in the minds of MPs, the inquiry into defence procurement had been given a new urgency by the Sheffield's loss and that urgency would be reflected in the secret session the next day.

Thames Television's TV Eye team, whose members were abducted at gunpoint and dumped without their clothes outside Buenos Aires, is to be withdrawn from Argentina.

Mr Barrie Sales, Thames director of news and current affairs, said they had argued strongly to be allowed to remain, but he felt it would be irresponsible to put them at risk a second time.



Welcome home: An Argentine trooper is greeted by his mother on return to Buenos Aires with the group of military and civilians taken prisoner by the British on South Georgia.

## EEC agonizes over sanctions renewal

From Ian Murray, Brussels, May 14

Britain's EEC partners seem set this week end to renew trade sanctions against Argentina, but only for a limited period and only subject to firm wording on the need to find a peaceful solution to the Falklands conflict.

A number of countries nevertheless have difficulties in agreeing to continue the embargo. The Italian Cabinet is due to meet tomorrow to consider the question, because Socialist members of the ruling coalition are pressing for parliamentary approval of the ban.

Denmark has similar difficulties about keeping its parliament happy and is seeking a change in the basis on which the ban was originally imposed.

The Danish Government would like to see any extended ban agreed under an article of the Treaty of Rome which would allow greater individual freedom to member states to decide appropriate measures, rather than at present where the Community has a unified sanction.

Ireland is still concerned that, as a neutral country, it

is being conscripted into a unit which is adding weight to Britain's military pressure. West Germany is not alone in wanting to see the sanctions renewed for a much shorter time. The suggestion is that they would be renewed until May 25, when the foreign ministers are due to meet again and when progress in the crisis could therefore be assessed at high level.

The debate on renewing the sanctions is due to start here tomorrow afternoon at political director level. If they can reach a unanimous agreement, the formalities of putting the renewed sanctions into operation would be completed before the present ones expire on Monday.

If they cannot reach unanimous agreement then it is likely that the foreign ministers will try to reach a decision at a special meeting in Luxembourg on Sunday on the eve of the Nato spring meeting here. No discussions could take place on the margins of the Nato meeting itself since Ireland is not a member of the alliance.

## In-and-out bomb did not explode

By Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent

The bomb which hit a British warship in the South Atlantic earlier this week went in through one side of the hull and out through the other without exploding, it was learned last night.

There were no casualties and the damage, described as "comparatively minor", is being repaired with the help of maintenance men flown in by helicopter from one of the task force carriers.

The bomb which struck the hull almost horizontally was dropped by an Argentine Skyhawk, three of whose sister aircraft had just been brought down directly or indirectly by the new Sea Wolf missile.

The latest evidence, however, discounts earlier reports of a trap, carefully set by two British warships for the Skyhawks, tempting them to disaster as soon as there was a break in the local weather, which seems to be varying between bad and worse.

It now seems that the damaged warship had been bombarding positions in East Falkland as part of the policy of harassing the Argentine garrison, with the second ship, a Type 22 frigate equipped with the Sea Wolf system, standing by to protect it.

The Skyhawks, operating from a base in the southern part of the Argentine mainland, like Rio Gallegos or Tierra del Fuego, were probably called by the scene by the beleaguered garrison who are believed to have several radar sets still operating despite British air raids.

Both sides are sceptical about the Argentine air force's ability to refuel them in flight. But, their combat radius of about 450 miles should have been just enough for them to reach their preselected target, Port Stanley, and return.

There are 14 Skyhawks on board the Veinticinco de Mayo, Argentina's only carrier, which should be able to project its air power further afield.

But latest reports suggest that the carrier, although technically at sea, is positioned only just outside port of sight of the Argentine people but far enough away from the British task force to minimize the threat from the Royal Navy's nuclear-powered submarines.

## Fleet's gagged pressmen Radio keeps front-line journalists informed

From John Witherow on board HMS Invincible

One of the standing jokes on board HMS Invincible is that if you want to know what you have been doing all day just listen to the BBC World Service.

The irony underlying this silent ritual of standing near the crackling speakers is that news of major developments concerning the task force is emerging in London with remarkable speed. However, for correspondents with the fleet such broadcasts have rather lost their humorous side.

They have been told that they cannot report until the news is announced in London, leading to delays of several hours in transmission. It is possible there is some knowledge of developments but only sent the news when it has been released in Whitehall and broadcast by the BBC.

The Royal Navy is aware of the importance of reports from the front line in maintaining the impetus of the war effort and keeping families informed. But it is also concerned that Argentina should not gain a military advantage from despatches.

It is this apparent lack of co-ordination between the Navy and the Ministry of Defence that has led to a number of problems. Some of the ridiculous claims by Argentina of losses they have inflicted on the task force have no doubt encouraged the Ministry into releasing as much information as possible to scotch any suggestion that the British are playing the same propaganda game.

But the Navy would have preferred some of this information to have remained undisclosed. The missile attack on HMS Sheffield was one such example. An order came from the Navy to HMS Invincible stating that nothing was to be reported from the task force about the

destruction of the destroyer. That, however, was soon negated when the news was announced in London.

One of the more blatant examples was when journalists were instructed that under no circumstances could the raid by Vulcan bombers on Port Stanley be reported. The ship had been told this was top secret and that even in two years time, perhaps while chatting in a pub, no mention was to be made of the attack. Half an hour later the BBC announced that Vulcan aircraft from Ascension Island had bombed the airfield.

At first it was hoped that the tragic loss of the two Harriers from Invincible in an accident could be kept secret in an attempt at knowing the task force's air strength had been reduced. However, that evening the BBC announced that not only had the aircraft gone missing but also stated how many Harriers remained with the fleet.

These problems have on occasion placed naval officers in the embarrassing position of saying that publication of some items could jeopardize their operations, only to hear it later being announced.

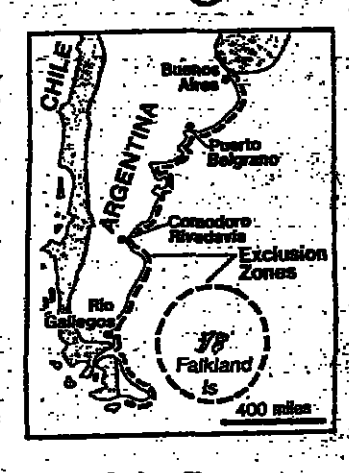
The crew of Invincible has also made considerable efforts to send the reports as quickly as possible at a time when signal traffic via satellite has reached record levels.

But despite this, it appears that a dispatch sent before lunch can still not arrive at newspaper offices from the MoD in time for publication in the first edition, even though it may have left the ship soon after mid-day.

So in this particular war it seems that truth is not the first casualty, merely the last as it takes to get it to London.

## Storm is moving in

A large and intense storm off the coast of Chile is moving towards the Falklands and should affect the islands over the weekend. The ship reports indicate winds of 30 to 50 m.p.h. to the north and northeast of the islands with seas quite rough — 20 to 30 ft. Gordon Barnes, US Cable News meteorologist forecasts strong gusty winds of 30 to 40 m.p.h. for the Falklands this weekend. The storm is expected to bring 1,000 to 2,000 ft. visibility but heavy rain and/or snow, but some improvement may occur early next week.



President Mitterrand of France and Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, began weekend of talks in Hamburg expected to be dominated by the Falkland crisis.

The Chancellor said on French television that Bonn and Paris have very similar views on the subject. Both supported Britain but were anxious for a negotiated solution.

Asked whether he and Mitterrand intended some joint initiative, he replied indirectly, saying only that the efforts of Senor Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary General should not be disturbed.

Mr Claude Chirsson, the French Foreign Minister, flew to London to talk with Mr Francis Pym, just as Foreign Office magazine published an article claiming he had virtually "insulted" the British in a diplomatic note to his military aides.

His trip was to help prepare Monday's talks in London between President Mitterrand and Mrs Thatcher. The magazine published a photo-

copy of the Chirsson note and the text of a Foreign Ministry report calling Britain's handling of the Falklands crisis a "fiasco".

Hunter-killer  
Paris — Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister, has ordered a fifth nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarine for the French Navy. It is the last of a series planned a decade ago.

Prisoners dead  
Paris — Three political prisoners, including M. Sidde Hassane, a former trade union leader, have died in prison in Niger after being treated, according to exiles here.

Shock in store  
Tokyo — The United States and Japan are to develop a "frozen power" to store electricity generated by the sun and by windmills.

## Film girls bring back flag and catapults

By Kenneth Gosling

When Cindy Buxton and Annie Price heard the Argentines had landed, they boarded up their tiny hut at St Andrew's Bay, South Georgia, and took down the Union flag they first raised last October — "just in case it upset anyone", they said yesterday.

The two film-makers arrived home earlier in the day after being rescued from South Georgia by the Navy a fortnight ago. They were relieved, they said, to have got away but said to have left their home for the last seven-and-a-half months.

Had the Argentines found them it would have made sense to obey them: in any case, the only weapons they had with them were two catapults and an air gun.

There were restrictions in what they could say, following several Ministry of Defence debriefings. For example, they could not name the ships that took them back to Ascension Island. However, both Miss Buxton, aged 31, and Miss Price, 33, were able to give a graphic account of the scene

at Grytviken when the British troops landed. They described it as "a magnificent show of strength". They said they heard the attack from their base, thinking at first that the gunfire was the breaking up of glaciers.

The Navy had done a marvellous job in trying to preserve the buildings and only a few windows were broken in the fighting. But the Argentines left a dreadful mess. All the British Antarctic Survey's food supplies and personal equipment had been looted. Medical stores had been strewn around.

"But the scrap metal merchants, who had originally come to dismantle the old whaling station, obviously intended to stay some time — they had several tons of stores including crates of champagne and coffee." The spirit amongst the Marines was good they said. But, Miss Price said, she was not sure whether they knew what they were in for with the winter. "They should be relatively comfortable — obviously there are far more



Sweet Georgia: Memories for Cindy Buxton (left) and Annie Price.

personnel there now, and the winter can be quite stable, more so than the summer."

Miss Buxton said they also saw the Argentine submarine that was damaged in the landing. "It was sinking slowly and the water level reached its decks. There were some impressive holes in its conning tower."

When, back at St Andrew's Bay, they heard the Marines had landed, they opened the

second of their two bottles of champagne — the first they drank at Christmas. They had been anxious that the Argentines might reach them by sea but after three or four days they began to relax.

Back safely and full of praise for the Navy, the pair will now spend some time telephoning a long list of messages from people they met on board.

## Progress made at UN talks Reagan says

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, May 14

The decision by the United States to side with Britain in the Falklands dispute has not done irreparable damage to America's relations with Latin America, according to President Reagan.

The President, answering a question on the Falklands crisis during his press conference last night, indicated that some progress was being made in the talks at the United Nations. But he said there were still a number of problems to be resolved.

The President in particular indicated that progress has been made in resolving the thorny issue of sovereignty over the islands.

He said that until now the Argentines had been intransigent in wanting a guarantee of sovereignty before the negotiations began "which doesn't make much sense". However, he added: "I understand there's now been some agreement on a way forward to negotiations."

## Defence Minister criticizes BBC radio inferences

House of Lords

Viscount Trenchard, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, strongly criticized a BBC radio programme during exchanges in the House of Lords which he claimed contained obvious inferences that HMS Sheffield could have been saved had she been fitted with the Sea Wolf missile.

He expressed regret that no effort was made by the BBC to check with the Ministry of Defence, where special arrangements for the media had been set up.

Earl Alexander of Tunis (C) began questions of the Falkland crisis by asking whether public comments which obviously gave succour to the enemy could be deemed reasonable. What action did the Government intend to take?

Lord Halsbury of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said: The constitutional position is as follows. It is for courts and not for the Government to decide what conduct is capable of constituting a criminal offence in all the circumstances.

As regards the institution of prosecutions on behalf of the Crown, it is for the Attorney General acting in his independent capacity as legal adviser to the Crown and not as a member of the Government to institute any necessary proceedings.

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## Correction

In yesterday's parliamentary report of the Commons debate on the Falkland Islands, the following remarks by Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, Off UTV) were wrongly attributed to Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party. We apologize to both of them.

The eventual outcome had to be a definitive agreement without prejudice to the wishes of the islanders, but a definitive agreement arrived at in those circumstances, after those preliminary negotiations, would be the overriding justification and paramount factor of the status which the Falkland Islanders voluntarily and freely chose for themselves.

The country and the world had been told, through the mouth of the Foreign Secretary, that the Government was prepared to accept what six weeks ago was unacceptable, and that the purposes for which the British forces were in the South Atlantic and for which they were exposed to loss of life and loss of vessels, had been radically altered.

The divergence to which he drew attention might represent an internal difference of opinion in the Government. If so, Mr Pym could resolve it. If he was not agreed with his colleagues in the Government, he should restore the clarity of the purpose for which the operation was being conducted, there was an honourable course which he could take.

The prime duty to maintain the unity of the Government rested on the Prime Minister. She owed it to the country, to the forces and to the Falkland Islanders to restore the unity of the Government, to restore the clarity of purpose upon the basis of which the whole operation had begun and in the name of which alone they were entitled to call on the people and forces for sacrifices.

## Control of imitation firearms

Guidelines were being prepared on measures which could be applied to imitation firearms incapable of being readily converted to use live ammunition. Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office, said in the Commons when the Firearms Bill was read the third time. The Bill applies the provisions of the Firearms Act 1968, with certain exceptions, to imitation firearms, which are readily convertible to fire live ammunition.

He said the guidelines would be drawn up in consultation with representatives of the gun trade and other interested parties and would be made available before the Bill came into force. If the Bill prevented even one imitation firearm capable of being converted falling into the wrong hands and being used with live ammunition for criminal purposes, it would have been more than justified.

To have the restriction at the point of sale or acquisition would greatly reduce the impact of the Bill. It was important that the Bill should apply to possession.

He would not anticipate many certificates being granted for readily convertible imitation firearms because it would be difficult for applicants to show that they had good reason for possessing them rather than possessing imitations that could not be readily converted.

## No one should benefit from murder

A warning that hard cases must not be allowed to make bad law was given by Sir John Pym (Harrowborough, Lib Dem) in the House of Commons when he moved a new clause, the Barker-Randall Bill, which provides that a person found guilty of another man's death, or of another man's injury, should not be allowed to benefit from that death or injury. The clause removed that right to apply from those convicted of murder.

Mr Leo Abbot (Pontypool, Lab) said that publicists demanded an amendment to the new clause of the Bill, so women could benefit from their own wrong. That should not be an excuse of that fundamental principle, but not every unlawful killing was

now deemed to be murder and the Bill focused on such information.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Birkenhead, C) said it was not too easy to set up circumstances in which it would appear that there were compassionate circumstances which should be taken into account.

There had been anxiety in the gun trade that the Bill would destroy the business and there would therefore be full consultation between the Home Office and representatives of the trade to draw up a code of practice. While this was not a statutory Bill, it was right that dealers should know what was necessary in dealing with imitation firearms to meet the legislation. There would be ample time for all consultations and all interested parties would be involved.

If there was a weakness, it was that the court had to answer "Yes or No" to whether, on a matter of public policy, it should allow a claimant to use the courts to enforce a claim. The answer to the question had to be "All or nothing."

It was for the House to say if it thought there should be "wider discretion" for the Government, he would not think it right to go any further than that.

He saw an argument for saying that the present position might be unduly restrictive on the courts. The Government was inclined to the view that if the Government should help the sponsors with technical expertise to put that into law, but the House decided it would, to go further than that, the Government would have to reconsider such an offer.

The report stage completed and the Bill was read the third time.

The Deeds (Amendment) Bill, which has passed the House of Commons, and the House of Lords, and against strenuous opposition, was read the third time.

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Marital law protest

# Cracow students ignore pleas for restraint

From Roger Bayes, Warsaw, May 14

Poland's official press today hailed the mixed response to Solidarity's general strike call as a victory for martial law and common sense and a defeat for the Western-inspired underground. "Workers say 'no' to anti-socialist provocations" is the front page headline of the army daily, *Zolnierz Wolnosci*.

In fact, though the factory workers did indeed act with restraint during yesterday's strike — partly as a response to threats from the management — there were a number of street demonstrations that underline the problems facing the authorities. The worst of these was in Cracow.

According to reports from travellers, more than 10,000 people gathered in the old market square near the statue of the Polish writer Adam Mickiewicz and chanted "Solidarity" and "Workers of Poland" and moved in within minutes.

They used water cannon, tear gas and special grenades designed to simulate the sound of gunfire. The crowd tried to disperse along the streets but found their way blocked and were then pursued by the militia who baton charged.

One of the disturbing elements of the demon-

stration — which in other respects follows the pattern of the other riots over the past two weeks — was that the protesters gathered after a massing in the church of the Holy Virgin, despite explicit appeals by the priest to go straight home and avoid the possibility of confrontation.

The church has been a centre of protest since the beginning of the martial law — a place where workers could meet to discuss their grievances and to plan their actions.

That spurs continuing problems for the Polish leadership since it will have to balance its attempts to reduce the power and number of "the most destabilising" elements in the underground.

The Queen has spent the two days since the fall of the second van Agt Cabinet in consultation with her advisers and the country's political leaders.

In a report which is certain to cause angry reaction in South African Government and military circles, the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, which represents more than two million Roman Catholics in the Southern African subcontinent, stated that atrocities were being committed by both sides in the bush war.

Most Namibians regarded South African Forces as a "foreign army of occupation" and wanted elections supervised by the United Nations which, the report concluded, Swapo would win.

There was no comment tonight from the South African Government and the Defence Ministry stated it wanted to see the full report before making any comment.

However, in a response published in the body of the report, Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, said the report was too negative and failed to consider South Africa's assistance to Namibia.

South Africa was doing "everything in its power to stop the war in Namibia," he said.

The bishops report said blame for the current impasse.

SA Soviet-built helicopter being used to supply Swapo guerrillas has been destroyed on the ground by the South African Air Force, it was stated in Pretoria today.

A brief statement by the South African Army said it was attacked "during follow-up operations against Swapo in southern Angola."

Angola's forces are equipped solely with Soviet-made arms, including helicopters and MIG jets.

The Defence Force Department said the report was "too negative and failed to consider South Africa's assistance to Namibia."

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A child is carried from a house in Riverside, California, where two police officers were shot dead trying to serve a warrant.

## Dutch face prospect of early polling

From Robert Schuil, Amsterdam, May 14

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands is expected to name a Christian Democrat "informateur" as her personal political fact-finder after the collapse of the eight-month-old centre-left coalition of Christian Democrats, Labour and left-liberal Democrats-66.

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## Reagan rejects Salt revival

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, May 14

President Reagan has rejected a revival of the abandoned Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (Salt Two), saying that it did nothing to reduce the power and number of "the most destabilising" elements in the underground.

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right American position on arms reduction can bring us closer to a settlement."

Explaining why he was opposed to the revived Salt Two treaty, he said it "simply legitimises the arms race" because it would allow the Soviet Union to just about double its present nuclear capability.

Although he did not go as far as Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, early in the week, who declared Salt Two to be dead, his staff said afterwards he would have expressed himself in similar terms if he had been asked.

Mr Reagan told a questioner that the United States would not renounce the first use of nuclear weapons in the event of a Soviet conventional attack against Western Europe. "I don't think that any useful purpose is served in making such a declaration," he said.

Mr Reagan said the only way to achieve a "firm, forth-

## Everest climber taken ill

One climber from the British expedition attempting the north east ridge of Everest has retreated suffering from severe altitude sickness (Ronald Faux writes).

Dick Renshaw, aged 31, from Cardiff, was helping to fix ropes to safeguard a difficult section of the unclimbed ridge when he fell ill.

He is now reported to be recovering at base camp as the three other climbers, Chris Bonington, aged 47, Peter Boardman, aged 31, and Joe Tasker, aged 33, prepare their final assault on the summit.

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## Euro Tories explain their 'desertion'

From George Clark, Strasbourg, May 14

Sir Henry Plumb, leader of the European Democratic Conservative group in the European Parliament, wrote to Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, today explaining why the 60 British Conservatives in Strasbourg have come down in favour of majority voting in the Council of Ministers in order to get a settlement of the farm price dispute.

That would mean that objections still being voiced by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, will be overruled in Brussels next week.

Sir Henry wrote: "Our group succeeded in getting an unequivocal statement from the European Parliament in favour of a renewal of sanctions against Argentina. This was a good deal more difficult than it had been last month, with many of our colleagues on the right as well as the left suggesting that Britain did not seem to believe that solidarity was a two-way process."

"While we accept that there should be no link made between agricultural prices and the Falklands, we took the view that it was necessary to acknowledge that many European farmers were, in their view, in crisis. In my speech during the debate I deliberately referred to majority voting in this context."

"We felt that the renewal of sanctions by the Community should be our highest

priority. I hope the decisions of the Parliament and the Commission will help towards this end. The result of a loss of Community support for Britain in this crisis would be disastrous for public opinion in Britain and for the cohesion of the Community as a whole."

Sir Henry enclosed an extract from his speech in which he repeated with approval a statement by the Foreign Minister of France that any linkage between support for Britain in the settlement of farm price and budget issues would be "indecent".

"I agreed with him," said Sir Henry. "Friendship does not have a price. But we in the Conservative group clearly recognise the deep concern amongst electors of many of this house about the problem of settling farm prices. We recognise that the community will be a much more credible force in international affairs when she can settle her domestic problems with greater speed and efficiency."

There is no doubt here that the group is in trouble with Mrs Thatcher. Messages coming from London suggested that these Conservatives are deserting the Government in its attempt to get a fair deal for Britain from the community budget.

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## Haig refuses to mediate in Aegean

From Our Correspondent, Ankara, May 14

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, who held extensive talks with Turkish leaders here today, will not mediate in the Turkish-Greek dispute, he thinks they could best be resolved through bilateral negotiations, his spokesman, Mr Dean Fischer, disclosed.

Mr Haig, who arrived here yesterday for a widely-publicized official visit on the first leg of a trip which will also take him to Athens tomorrow and then to Luxembourg to attend the Nato Ministerial Council meeting, today conferred with General Kenan Evren, the head of state, Mr Bulent Ecevit, the Prime Minister, Mr Turgut Ozal, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Sadi Irmak, Speaker of the Consultative Assembly.

Mr Fischer's words made it clear that Mr Haig had accepted the Turkish Government's stand against mediation by a third party in the disputes with Greece, insisting on their resolution through bilateral negotiations which were suspended by the Socialist Greek Government last year.

## Hostages freed as Guatemala protest ends

Guatemala City, May 14

Thirteen Guatemalan left-wingers who held eight people hostage for 30 hours in the Brazilian embassy were flown to Mexico today with five of the hostages.

The left-wingers, who were protesting against the alleged persecution of the embassy after receiving a Government guarantee of safe passage.

The group included six women in Indian dress and seven men.

The group for the group said that they represented people "who have been persecuted and whose harvests and farms have been burned".

Nothing has changed, the group of officers claiming to be reformers overthrew the military-led Government.

Senhor Antonio Carlos de Arreu e Silva, the Brazilian ambassador and two embassy employees were freed.

Senhor Fernando Farias de Castro, a Brazilian diplomat, and four embassy employees agreed to accompany the left-wingers to Mexico to assure their safety.

## Nicaragua has ended torture, US body says

Washington, May 14

Torture has been "effectively eliminated" in Nicaragua, contrary to claims by the United States, according to an American human rights organization.

In a report drawn up after a 10-day tour of Nicaragua last March, the organization, America's Watch, said: "Many of the charges leveled against the Nicaraguan Government by the United States are substantially exaggerated."

However, the group refused to say whether the human rights situation in Nicaragua was completely satisfactory.

Mr Stephen Hays and Mr Juan Mendez, both lawyers, said last night they had come to their conclusions after interviewing hundreds of

people in Nicaragua, including members of the Government, United States Embassy staff, prisoners and opponents of the left-wing Sandinista regime.

They found widespread agreement, even among the Government's strongest critics, that physical torture is not practised in Nicaragua today, they said.

Disappearances or executions that occurred were isolated occurrences rather than a Government policy, they added.

Mr Kass and Mr Mendez criticized the State Department for making accusations, the truth of which was doubted by American Diplomats in Nicaragua itself.

A State Department spokesman said: "We stand by our report." — AFP

## Terror attacks as ETA deadline nears

From Harry Debellus, Madrid, May 14

With only hours to go before the deadline set one month ago by the ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty Organization) in its demand for the withdrawal of all Madrid-controlled security forces from the Basque country, terrorists attacked in three places, killing a civilian and wounding two policemen.

A taxi driver was found shot dead today in the northern industrial town of Eibar. There was no evidence of robbery. Police suspect ETA.

In Barcelona a policeman was wounded in an exchange of shots with protesters early this morning at a power station.

In the Basque capital of Vitoria a member of the Civil Guard was wounded in a machine-gun attack on a barracks.

## Award to king for protecting environment

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, May 14

Gold medals have been awarded to King Carl Gustaf of Sweden, President Moi of Kenya, and Mr Maurice Strong, a Canadian who was secretary-general of the first World Environment Conference in Stockholm in 1972, it was announced here today.

The awards, made by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), were announced during the special conference now taking place here to assess the progress made since the Stockholm conference.

The award to King Carl Gustaf marks the fact that Sweden has consistently been the forefront of the movement to protect and preserve the world environment.

President Moi receives the medal because his country has hosted UNEP since its inception.

## Boycott of Maltese by-elections

From Austin Sammut, Valletta, May 14

Malta's constitutional crisis entered a new phase yesterday, when nominations for by-elections in 31 constituencies — caused by the expulsion of the Nationalist Party (NP) MPs — closed without any nominations by unsuccessful NP candidates in the general election held last December.

The 31 seats concerned were declared vacant by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr Daniel Micallef, on April 26, after the Nationalist MPs had been boycotted sitting since the new session of Parliament was inaugurated on February 15.

The boycott was called as a protest against the fact that while the NP, under Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, obtained an absolute majority of votes in the election, the Labour Party of Mr Dom Mintoff, the Prime Minister, retained a majority of seats in Parliament. His government and the Electoral Commission have been accused of blatant gerrymandering.

Two independent candidates have submitted nominations for the forthcoming by-elections, due to be held within a week. However, it would be surprising were they to be successful. They are considered "characters" in the local political and social set-up.

The decision that no NP candidates were to contest the by-election was taken by the party's central executive committee and announced by Dr Adami during a rally a fortnight ago.

Indications are that the House of Representatives will have to resort to the cooption of members to fill the vacant seats.



Durban. — Alan Paton, aged 79, South African author of *Cry the Beloved Country*, has left the Saint Augustine hospital here following treatment for an aneurysm in his heart.

## Girl kidnapped

Como. — The Italian magistrate leading inquiries into the disappearance of a British millionaire's daughter, Miss Gaby Kiss Maerth, aged 18, said she was kidnapped two days ago and is alive.

## Angolans to die

Luanda. — Three Angolans were sentenced to death by a revolutionary court in Cabinda, northern Angola for planting bombs.

## ST JOSEPH'S HOSPICE

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**LONDON RACE ORCHESTRA** The Complete Brandenburg Concerto, Philip Ledger (traverse), David Harrison (flute), David Russell, Alan Miller (oboe), Michael Laine (clarinet), Bernard Pearson, Percy Hart, David Woodhouse (violin), Andrew Stansfield, Joseph Williams (viola), David Stansfield (cello), David Stansfield (bass) Sachs Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F, No. 2 in F, No. 3 in F, No. 4 in G, No. 5 in D and No. 6 in B flat. £2.50, £2.50, £5.50 sponsored by Cornhill Ltd.

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**21 May INTERNATIONAL FOREX CONFERENCE**

Public access to certain parts of the centre will be restricted on these days.

**MUSSORGSKY-RAVEL** - Pictures at an Exhibition

[illegible]

**GORDON JACKSON**  
in AGATHA CHRISTIE'S  
**CARDS ON THE TABLE**

[illegible]

**"ANYONE FOR DENNIS?"**

Mon.-Sat. 8-9 p.m., Sun. & Hols.  
Student Standby, 6.00 or before  
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May Sat. Last weeks.

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9.00 P.M. GPs reductions 10.00, 12.00, 1.00, 3.00  
mat. 2.30

**VERY STRONGLY**

[illegible]

**MAW. 01-388 1394**  
**WILES CROISSET**  
 The distinguished Dutch Actor in  
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A new play by  
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 May... The audience responded  
 hysterically.  
**THEY STAMPEDED. THEY SHRIEKED.**  
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*(and you know)*

[illegible]

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 -JOHN WELLS JR.  
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 Mon.-Sat. 8.15pm Sat. Mat. 5pm  
 Student Standby 2.50 1st hr before  
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[illegible]

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WINNIPIG PLAY I HAVE NEVER  
SEEN IN THE WEST AND TMS.

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SAT. 7.00 & 9.00 PM.

[illegible]

by Paul Today Times.	JOHN JERUSALEM. Member, "Extremely D. Tel. "Exceptional"	von Truitt's THE GERMAN SISTERS (AA) Progs 2, 20 (not Sun). 4.35, 6.55, 8.50.
ROYAL UPSTAIRS RUMRAGE	COUNT 730 3554 by Sue Townsend.	THEATRE BAZAAR Towansend.
		ACADEMY 2. 437 5129. CLAUDE MILLER'S gripping psychological drama THE INQUISITOR (AA). Screen 2 PM (not Sun) & 2.25, 6.35.

[illegible]







## Theatre

## A classical centenary

Next Saturday lights will go up in a converted chalk-pit in Berkshire. Enter a Chorus of Persian Elders to intone the majestic opening of the oldest extant tragedy in the Western world. For the centenary production of its Greek play Bradfield College has chosen *The Persians* by Aeschylus, first played 2,543 years ago, and as far as I can see, performed only once before in the original Greek in the modern world. It is a suitably ambitious production for a remarkable English institution.

The Greek play was introduced to Bradfield in 1882 by Head Master Herbert Bransford Gray with a performance of the *Alcestis*. He played Admetus himself. The schoolboy critic observed tactfully of his performance: "We cannot too highly praise Mr Gray's Admetus. His part was the chief, and the most arduous, and he performed it as none but a scholar and a gentleman could perform it." Six years later, inspired by a visit to Epidaurus, he led his boys in covering the chalk-pit into a scaled down model of the greater Greek theatre. Since then generations of schoolchildren, classicists, and theatre-lovers have huddled from the summer showers and shifted uneasily from buttock on the concrete to watch the roots of our theatre performed as they were originally written.

This year for the first time a girl from Bradfield is in the play, taking the part of Atossa, the Queen Mother. She is not quite the first female to tread the chalk-pit orchestra, since Dr Gray's wife gave several spirited performances as Antigone in the 1890s. These days only half a dozen of the cast of 27 are Hellenists. The rest have been learning their parts, first of all by rote, and always with prodigious labours, since Michaelmas. Christopher Stace, the director and head of classics at

Bradfield, spent a term on a fellowship at Oxford to set up the text. The production costs many thousands of pounds, with professionals designing the set and costumes, and composing the music.

It is all very splendid. But in this day-and-age, when classics are no longer Queen of the curriculum, is it not something of a Victorian Folly? Would the pulls of Bradfield not be more profitably occupied performing Shakespeare, or Pinter, or, for that matter, making transistors?

You could justify it by saying that the boys love it, and would not hear of doing it in English. Schoolboys are conservative little beasts, and like something that makes their school different. You could say that it is the best game that Bradfield plays. Producing a Greek play in the open air is a cross between conducting a symphony and playing chess, and the real hard teamwork is done in drilling the chorus.

The only justification that matters is that it is a nonsuch authentic production of a great play. *The Persians* may not seem much of a play: not a lot of action, not a lot of plot, certainly not a lot of laughs. But Aeschylus went to the heart of universal questions of national pride and its fall, compassion for the enemy, and the pity of war. To put it on in Athens only eight years after the great victory, which he watched and probably took part in, was almost as daring as putting on a play set in Berlin and offering compassion to the Nazis in 1950 in London. On Saturday and in the following week Bradfield College will celebrate its centenary by reviving these still topical questions as they were first posed.

Philip Howard

● The world premiere of Hans Werner Henze's *Clarinet Concerto*, subtitled "Le miracle de la rose", is to be given in the Queen Elizabeth Hall on May 26 by Antony Pay with the London Sinfonietta conducted by the composer. Immediately after the concert the Sinfonietta embarks on a European tour with the theme of "Henze and the younger generation of British composers"; there will be concerts in Paris, Florence, Rome and Milan as well as in Germany and Switzerland and other northern Italian towns. Soon after that the Sinfonietta will make its first visit to Iceland to play in the Reykjavik Arts Festival.

● More than 70 films, divided into five distinct "seasons", are to be shown in the

Barbican Cinema 1 during June. Sundays will be devoted to Shakespeare on film; Mondays bring a tribute to Henry Fonda; Tuesdays feature the work of Luis Bunuel; Wednesdays examine the career of Jack Nicholson. From Thursdays to Saturdays more than 30 films are to be screened in a Special Effects season which ranges from Melies's *Trip to the Moon* to Ridley Scott's *Alien*. The July programme is to include a Jacques Tati retrospective.

● The *Cooler*, a surrealist musical film starring Ringo Starr, Barbara Bach and Paul Linda McCartney, has been selected to appear in competition in the Best Short Subject category at the Cannes Festival. It will be screened on May 24.



Tristan und Isolde: Gwyneth Jones and Jon Vickers

## Opera/William Mann

## Tristan und Isolde

## Covent Garden

Promoters at the Royal Opera House on Thursday paid £2 to see and hear a thrilling performance of Wagner's sublime love poem. We used to take it for granted that a distinguished Tristan cast must include some German or Austrian, or at least Scandinavian guest principals. The current revival is cast from international strength and all the singers come from Britain or the Commonwealth, the conductor as well.

Sir Colin Davis launched the Prelude with a wealth of intensity and noble orchestral sound not attempting to restrain the weight of its climax, which bade fair to bring down the cupola, but did not dwarf what followed — its effective reprise, at Isolde's "Ich trink sie dir" was at least as powerful. The ROH orchestra was in glorious form rising to all the great challenges with Sir Colin and the singers involved.

The anguished, searing unravelling of thematic working in the third act monologue, "Muss ich dich so verstehen" owed much to eloquent woodwind solos, and more to Sir Colin's painstaking exposition, but chiefly to the vocal acting, the rapacious physical intensity with which Jon Vickers accompanied and realized it.

Sir Colin invited us to wonder at the magical string textures in Brangäne's aubade, it was ultimately the soaring burnished radiance of Yvonne Minton's singing that made the passage so memorable.

The cast includes Donald McIntyre's bluff and true and tender Kurwenal, the tone sometimes frayed at the edges, but confident and less uncomfortable than before; Gwyneth Howell's King Mark, touching invulnerability, by no means anti and never boring; Philip Gelling's unusually self-assured Melor. The first vocal music in the opera, the Sailor's song from the crow's nest was attractively and strongly sung by Lawrence Dale.

The special fascination of this revival is London's first opportunity to encounter Gwyneth Jones's Isolde. To note that she drops consonants and often pitches sharp, that she presses unduly upon her instrument until it rasps (even in the Liebestod, which should sound sublimely serene even in life's utmost fulfillment) is to repeat the obvious. Jones's voice is in steady condition, and quite big enough to monologue, "Muss ich dich so verstehen" owed much to eloquent woodwind solos, and more to Sir Colin's painstaking exposition, but chiefly to the vocal acting, the rapacious physical intensity with which Jon Vickers accompanied and realized it.

On board ship she is utterly consumed by humiliation, frustrated fury. As she pours forth her tirades and imprecations, the uninhibited venom of her delivery is contradicted by a facial expression devoid of any communicable feeling. When Tristan enters her quarters, her taunts are pure ice, without sarcasm or even resentment — her grudge and her pride are too great to permit anything so human.

The transition to womanly feeling is marvellous to watch and hear. The workings of the potion on them both is vividly realized in the constant staving by Jeremy Sutcliffe, tidy and lucid. But it is perhaps flawed by the demure behaviour of the lovers in their great duet, and by the device of freezing the actors into a tableau while the music continues, a contrived, not properly helpful effect.

By the second act this Isolde has relaxed into wide eyed girlish naivety and an infatuation beyond her understanding. Jones does not fully visualize the glorious sound of her duetting with Vickers, though he at last has an Isolde worthy of his great tragic Tristan. She shows herself completely woman and heroine only after Tristan's death, beginning the Liebestod like some wise-woman in an uplifted trance, crumbling slowly when she sinks down at its end — not yet quite effortless.

Contrary to the statement in yesterday's opera column in *Preview* there are two more chances to hear *Eugene Onegin* at Covent Garden, May 20 and May 22. Kiri te Kanawa has had to withdraw from the revival of *Simon Boccanegra*, which opens next Tuesday, because of family reasons. Her place is taken by the Swedish soprano Helena Dose.

## Television/Michael Church

While the *Play for Today* slot remains in the helpful clutches of the *Plays for Tomorrow* gang we must look to other nights for evidence that BBC drama is alive and kicking. No problem: with *The Woman in White* and *Bird of Prey* that evidence is ready to hand, and even the wayward *Playhouse* series is going through an interesting patch. Last week's offering, *Rhys Adrian's Passing Through*, was (if I may respectfully dissent from another view expressed in these columns) a moving and highly accomplished piece of work. Jake's End, by Desmond Lowden (BBC 2 last night) was an equally accomplished essay in that popular genre, the everyday story of bank-robbing folk.

The setting was Southampton, looking very fetching in 57 varieties of sea mist, but the accents were pure Sarf London. Jake (Maurice O'Donnell) was a chubby Bogart lookalike held in awe by his gaunpled and pinched accomplices as an infallible fixer of dirty jobs. The story was complicated — not being an aficionado of this genre, I could not follow its more labyrinthine twists — but its essential lines were agreeably tension-inducing.

Pulled one way by his

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## Radio/David Wade

## Just how important is IQ?

Mention the name of Professor Arthur Jensen in certain circles and immediately red mists come before the eyes. Is he not the man who says that intelligence is entirely a matter of genetics and inheritance? Does he not assert that blacks are genetically less intelligent than whites and therefore natural subordinates in the order of things? Is he not some kind of fascist?

Last Wednesday *The Seeds of Intelligence* (Radio 3) took the form of a discussion between Jensen and Professor A. H. Halsey in which the latter "thoroughly and ably extracted an account of the present state of Jensen's thinking on the heritability of IQ in groups and individuals. It seemed to me that thinking bore almost no relationship at all to what some of its critics declare it to be.

What causes differences in human capacity is an enormously complex subject — so much so, in fact, that it may seem impossible to comprehend. Scientists tend to respond to this by dividing it into small parcels in the hopes of understanding the pieces. This effort is almost inevitably coloured to some extent by pre-existing beliefs about what the picture ought to be — although even this, provided it is conscious, should put the scientist a step or two ahead

of the rest of us who in the absence of information adopt beliefs and cling to them, usually with a tenacity in strict proportion to the depth of our ignorance.

We tend to think of IQ as the measure of human capacity — probably, I suspect, because it is one of the few ingredients in the soup which can be identified and measured in any way at all — rather as if, in a technically backward society, petrol were the only known element in the workings of the internal combustion engine. But IQ — as Jensen is plainly aware — is only one of the scientist's small parcels and work done on it needs to be assessed with that in mind. That work, according to Jensen, suggests that "in crude terms we get some 70 per cent of our endowment from our parents, but he is a very long way from saying that the results are entirely reliable or that environmental factors play no part or only a very minor one."

Professor Halsey raised the delicate subject of race and IQ. It seems to be the case that, on the tests administered, black subjects as a group do less well than whites, but — as Jensen dwells on this — differences attributable to race are far smaller than those occurring anyway within racially homogeneous groups and are quite insufficient to justify confident conclusions for social

and educational policy, even if we could be sure that the importance of IQ were such as to allow us to do so. All in all then, this was an immensely interesting and useful programme — not least because it revealed a quite different view of a man from that propagated by current demology.

Five Years (Radio 4, Thursday) might have been constructed as an impressionistic piece on the subject of environment and capacity. It consisted of "excerpts" from the letters of "Milltown", a housing estate name concocted to preserve anonymity, though obviously less than 1,000 miles from South Wales. Here they sought and found trouble.

Here too they came together again for the first time in some while to look back on those five years of gang life. In spite of some divergence in the paths they had since taken that period was still clear and clear enough for them to recall what they had done and what they had felt about it — much of which, in its often candid disregard for interests other than their own, was remarkably uncomfortable in the wide "You and me" context of Radio 4. Their hosts were David Bowie and producer Gwyneth Williams had interspersed samples of his music with uncommon aptness to echo and point up the spoken word.

## Bridge/Jeremy Flint

## The fickle goddess

Whether you regard the Goddess of Chance with affection or distaste, luck indisputably plays an important part in matchplay as well as rubber bridge.

Some duplicate players fondly imagine that their game is a pure test of skill. How wrong they are. I have learned from bitter experience that you cannot win any game, especially in a field of mixed quality, without your share of luck. Multiple teams events afford a further refutation of the fallacy. It is only long head to head matches which provide reliable evidence of the relative skill of the contestants. That evidence may be reliable but as I shall demonstrate, it is far from conclusive.

This hand occurred in a vital European championship match between Britain and Italy.

Both sides reached the unguaranteed contract of 4NT. To be fair, the high point count, the two aces and the duplication in hearts, combine to make it difficult to stay within one's depth. In both rooms, West led the ♠Q. It is obvious that declarer must play on spades hoping to establish the suit for only one loser. The Italian South played a spade to the ♠10.

In the closed room the favourites bid 4NT. West led the ♠Q. Declarer could count three tricks in spades, hearts and clubs, making nine in all. If he could make three diamond tricks the slam was assured. He won the first trick with the ♠K and played the ♠Q to the ♠K.

Nothing more demonstrates the remarkable growth in popularity of chess than the spate of books on the game and, as far as I can judge, it is up-to-date and complete. It is also contained in a valuable section "on the Nimzovich Defence to the King's Pawn and on Owen's Defence (once known as the Queen's Fianchetto Defence)" written by Ray Keene.

Almost the opposite in aim and intention is *Chess Preparation* by Assiac & O'Connell (Penguin Press, 161 pages, £7.95 hard cover and £4.50 flexi-cover). Brightly written, with Assiac's characteristic flair for the colour and absurdity of the world of chess, it does not set out to instruct, yet manages to convey much more instruction about the openings than can be obtained from the first book.

I do not believe any book should be written about the openings in which there is no description of the aims involved and I would have thought that a book with its basic paradox of surrender of the centre in order to have an enemy object of attack, was in special need of explanation.

What happens when even such a talented master as Psakhis fails to understand the principles behind his opening can be seen in the following instructive game played in the recent Soviet zonal tournament at Erevan. White: Psakhis, Black: Geller. Queen's Gambit Declined, Tartakower variation.

Bravo, Signor! The British declarer finished the ♠Q. Bad luck!

On the surface, it appears a complete guess. Further consideration reveals that it is not. When the opposing spades are divided 3-3 it is indeed a complete toss up between the finesse of the ♠10 and the ♠Q. But when the spades are divided 4-2 we have a choice. It is distinctly superior to suppose that West has a doubleton honour. If he has ♠Kx, the play of the ♠Q restricts the loss in the suit to one trick. Today any experienced international player would know the percentage play. It was truly unlucky to lose a 26-point swing because of an opponent's ignorance.

The next hand decided a critical match in the Shirebrook trophy, one of America's two major knock-out events.

The losers took their defeat with good natured resignation. Only one thing puzzled them: the declarer in the closed room explained, "I don't mind the play leading to making a lucky diamond slam. If only he had played it correctly, but he didn't. He just bashed out the ♠A and took the finesse. If you have to play that suit for no loser, you must start with a small diamond in dummy's ♠1. Because of this possible distribution:

♠KJxx ♠10xxx  
♦Qx ♦A9xx  
♥KJxx ♥10xxx  
♣KJxx ♣10xxx

If your first move is to cash the ♠A, you lose an unnecessary trick to East's ♠10. If East has the singleton ♠Q you cannot avoid losing a trick. I hope you will find yourself in a grand slam with such a tenuous trump suit, but if you do, at least you will know how to play it.

All up to here as in the Georgiadis-Geller game that was played in the "second round" of this tournament. That game ended in a draw. East: ♠7, ♠N-Q2, 13 ♠N-T2 KR ♠1, 14 ♠Q, KR-B1; 15 ♠B-B1 ♠B4.

Oddly enough, Geller plays the move with which he secured the draw with Georgiadis to bring fresh life into the game. It is indeed logical to take advantage of White's slow K-side development to counter-attack in the centre.

A dangerous surrender of the centre, correct was 14 ♠N2 followed by 14 ♠Q-B. This is foolhardy. He should have completed his Kingside development with 14 ♠N2, ♠P-B3, ♠Q-Q2. Now Geller plays in this wonderfully dynamic style for which he was famous a quarter of a century ago.

Threatening to win the Queen by B-Q5.

He returned the ♠2 and when East followed with the ♠8 he concluded that West's ♠B2 provided the suit was not divided 5-0, this line of play would guarantee three diamond tricks, regardless of the distribution.

In the open room the underdogs stumbled into the bad contract of 7 ♠. At IMP starting, it is reasonable to bid a grand slam if the odds are 17/13 in your favour, as compared with the 27/1 on required to make the contract a solid proposition in rubber bridge. On this hand, the grand slam is approximately 27/1 against. As you can see, with the diamonds lying favourably, there was no difficulty in making 13 tricks.

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# Shoparound with Beryl Downing

## The old ceremonial to put everyone on their metal

Consumer protection at its most ancient and dignified was celebrated last week. No petty wrangling in the small court this, but the verdict of the 700th Trial of the Fy in the lofty halls of the company of Goldsmiths.

Without the trial no consumer is safe, for who can be sure of anything if the coin of the realm is suspect? The serious business of testing samples of all coins for weight, size and purity takes place in February each year. The luncheon to celebrate the findings last week revealed a good deal more than the verdict.

The Master of the Mint, the Chancellor of the Exchequer for instance, admitted to a fondness for dressing-up — and very fetching he looked, too, in his knee-high black stockings and one fastens to add, full regalia. Moreover, Sir Geoffrey went on to bare the Treasury's soul by leaking the fact that, for his first two years in office, he was made to hire his tricorn hat, but this year he had been allowed to buy one.

Students of economics will immediately detect evidence of an easing of the country's cash flow problems, despite the fact that the national debt has presumably increased to the tune of £80 or so. The Queen's Remembrancer, Master John Ritchie, Senior Master of the Supreme Court, also contributed his customary witticisms, couched in the most elegant terms, like a director of



The Complete Oxford English Dictionary announcing the annual sales figures to his reps. He speculated this year on the disadvantages of being a woman and monarch when custom decrees that your head be shown in profile on the coinage and you are not able, like kings, to insist on "thirteenth coverage to advance age." Would it not be more flattering, he suggested, to show three-quarters face if you were otherwise unable to camouflage the one "infamous undulatory droop"? Or, in less distinguished parlance, if you cannot grow a beard to hide your public chin, try another angle.

The jury who are entrusted to examine the sample coins placed on the pyx, or box, are all members of the company of Goldsmiths, who are fifth in the league table of the livery companies.

Precedence in their case has nothing to do with seniority. The oldest company, but have always seemed to have more clout than the rest. In their case it may

have been financial supremacy, but clout is certainly the operative word, for precedence seven centuries ago was often determined in "affray".

At that time apprentices had nothing much to do of an evening after they had finished in their workshops and they used to gather in the streets shouting "My guild is better than yours" or the medieval equivalent of "Put the boot in, Ethelred."

Pitched battles would ensue, involving up to 500 youths, and the winning side achieved a higher place in the pecking order. When the Skinners, in sixth position and the Merchant Taylors, in seventh, came to blows, the result was a dead heat so the mayor of the time decreed that they were to change positions each year.

But he added that if the mayor in any year came from the company that at the time was lower in precedence, the order should change for his period of office and be restored the following year. This ruling created such confusion that it resulted in the expression, handed down through the centuries, of being "at sixes and sevens".

Those who enjoy tracing such verbal links with history might like to note that Selfridges are hiring an exhibition of livery companies from June 28 to August 28, which will include all the expressions which arose from the livery traditions and which, like the Fy, are always with us.



Photographs by Peter Abbot



## A stylish new look for fur

Furs in May may at first seem on the pessimistic side, but this is the time to think about having them cleaned and remodelled before storage. This quilted blouson in waterproofed silk may give you some ideas for turning an outmoded fur into something stylish.

Made by Delba Boutique of Milan, the blouson has detachable sleeves and can be worn as a reversible jerkin. You can have it lined with any fur or you can supply your own to be turned into the lining, which buttons out for easy cleaning.

The silk blouson, unlined, is available to order through Deaneffs Furs, Bruton Street, W1. It costs around £275 — fur extra.

Among other furriers who offer a remodelling and cleaning service and who say they are prepared to undertake any job, however small, are Murray Bennett Ltd, 19 South Molton Street, W1, telephone 01-629 2757. Charges for cleaning a mink jacket, for example, are from £11.50 — more, of course, if the skins are brittle or need repair. Advice is free.

## Puzzle in round

Introducing the DIY Insanity Kit — a spherical puzzle studded with coloured beads to be manipulated in the manner of the Rubik Cube, but with an extra dimension — this one rattles.

The sphere, called Orbit, has four unconnected tracks filled with beads in four colours — red, blue, yellow and green. The aim is to fill each track with beads of only one colour — done by turning the two hemispheres and clicking each bead along. And click they do, in all their 592 million million million combinations. And whoever worked that out must have been pretty dotty, too.

Once you have mastered the simple version, you can make spirals and loops. A leaflet shows all the possibilities.

This diabolical British invention costs £3.99 (£1 p & p) from Hamleys, 200 Regent Street, London W1. I can tell you, I shall go into orbit anyone ever brings another one within twinking distance.



## Shapes plucked from the air

On show for the first time this week is a collection of ceramic planters designed specially for air plants. For those who like the individuality of hand-thrown clay pots, but are unsuccessful at nurturing the conventional plants they usually contain, this seems an ideal solution.

The planters are created by Beth Blick, who has specialised in plant containers for some time but has now discovered the exciting possibilities presented by the types of plants that draw their nutrients only from the air.

Unhindered by the need to provide a container for soil, she has invented a most original series of sculptural shapes in natural, earthy colours, each echoing or complementing the natural flow of the foliage.

"I am interested in the space

around the plants, rather than in pots to hold them," she says. There are about 40 different varieties of air plants, all with different shapes, so the possibilities are endless. You can create whole murals of plants when you don't need soil. And she will, too, to commission, if you wish.

On the planter illustrated, one plant is held in position by an almost invisible nylon cord, the other is simply placed in the fold of the pot. The only care necessary is an occasional spray with water. It costs £28.50 and is one of an exhibition of 44 air planters, each one different, at Heals, Tottenham Court Road, W1 until June 12. Prices are £19 to £89 and there is a collection of small planters at £5.50. Beth Blick can be contacted for special commissions on 01-444 7078.



## For the real thing — join the club

It is hard cheese these days for those who really like cheese. Quark from their Elbo. The hermetically sealed rubber sold in supermarkets and even the apparently genuine cow products sold in the local deli, have, I discovered this week, very little to do with real cheese. Most of us have been conditioned to forget what the genuine article tastes like.

I can now speak with authority because I tried a sample selection from the newly formed mail order cheese club launched by Paxton & Whitfield of Jermyn Street, cheese specialists for more than two centuries.

The sampling was a revelation. Gruyere was not, after all, soap. Camembert made the farmhouse way does not come out like sponge. English blue Cheshire is not mousetrap with mould, as each cheese had been selected at the peak of condition — and the difference was remarkable. The Gruyere, for instance, is specially made and matured in Switzerland for eight months before Paxton & Whitfield will accept it — and each wheel has to be at least 5in deep.

The idea of the cheese club is to reintroduce real flavour to people who have the discriminating palate of the connoisseur, but live too far from Jermyn Street to make their own selections. Each member receives a monthly selection of five 12oz cheeses, or portions — one English, one blue and three foreign. With the cheese comes a newsletter and a set of coloured leaflets giving information on the history and manufacture of each.

The charge is £9 a month, but there is no annual membership fee and you are not committed to a delivery every four weeks. With each selection comes an order form and if you don't fancy the next flavour of the month you can wait as long as you like before ordering again. There are ten selections a year and twice a year members may choose to reorder their favourites.

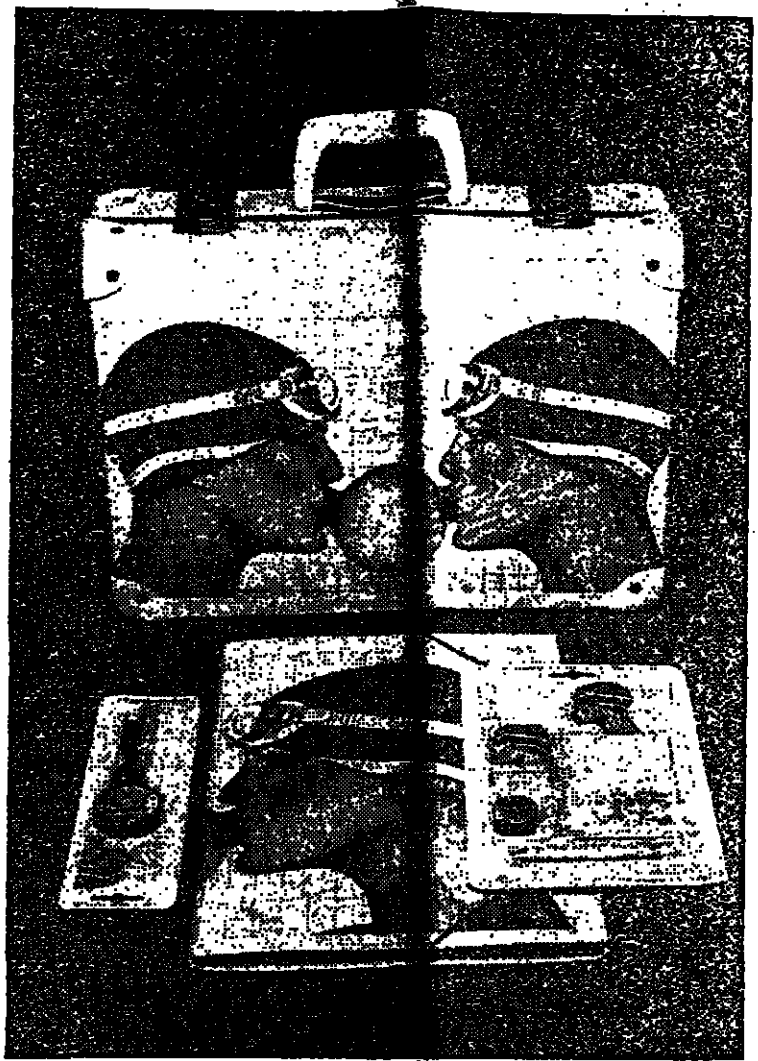
More information from Paxton & Whitfield Cheese Club, 93 Quark from their Elbo. SW1Y 6JE, telephone 01-930 9892. Believe me, you will never serve pre-formed plastic with your ploughman's lunches again.

If you are looking for some rather special wine to match the quality of your cheese, Sotheby's New Bond Street, W1, will be selling more than 1,000 lots from rare private collections on June 2 at 10am, 2.30pm and 7pm. Included will be clarets from 1861 to 1975, an 1898 Chateau d'Yquem and five lots of the forbidden French absinthe.

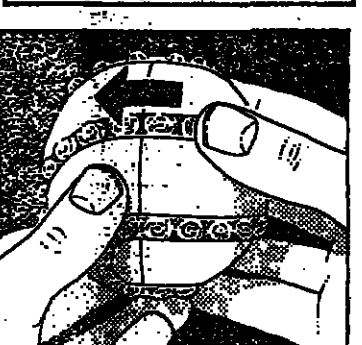
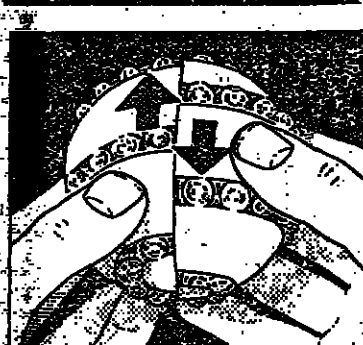
My gourmet weekend did not stop at cheese. Tesco sent me more than a taste of honey — four 1 lb jars of their own label selection, in fact. Pure Mexican and Pure Australian are both 75p but a touch undistinguished for my taste, but Acacia at 87p, which is light and clear, and Pure Canadian at 90p, tasting like clover petals dipped in butter, are both delicious.

I also tried some of the interesting and unusual fresh vegetables from Vinegar Joe's, a new up-market supermarket in Hampstead. The aim of owner Martin Dyer is to introduce customers to a range of foodstuffs they might not have met before and he has special deliveries every week direct from Rungis market in Paris.

This week he had fresh basil from the South of France, red lettuce, inch-long Japanese arichokes, pleurottes — the French mushrooms that taste like fillet steak — tender baby spinach (£2.20 lb, but 60p the serving size as there is no waste). There will be different seasonal selections each week for, as Martin Dyer says, there is no point in importing mint once you can get it in your own back garden. Best time to go to Vinegar Joe's is Thursday evening or Friday morning if the customers have held up deliveries. The address is 68-69 Hampstead High Street, NW3.



Attache case with a bold new fashion look has a selection of stationery to match — all in bubble gum pink on white. Case £16.30 (no mail order), portfolio £2.60 (50p p&p), neckpen £1.31 (21p p&p), memo set £1.73 (26p p&p). All from The Treehouse, 237 Kensington High Street, W8 and Treehouse in the Garden, 275 Camden High Street, NW1 (open Sundays, closed Mondays).



## The Times Cook/Shona Crawford Poole Brunch and onwards

Over easy. Sunny side up. Short stacks and hash browns. The language of breakfast is an intriguing introduction to the mysteries of the American way of life. One such puzzle is the topsy-turvy truth that the best breakfasts arrive in a flash in greasy spoon diners, and the worst, slowly in large hotels. In this area short-order cooks have got food, and beverage managers licked.

Bacon and eggs are the basis too of that other splendid American institution, Sunday brunch. Two of this week's recipes are from an American friend who rates jogging, or sneaking back to bed for another snooze higher than juggling frying pans on a Sunday morning. She bakes brunch.

The third dish, spaghetti alla carbonara, is of course Italian. This is one of the ways bacon and eggs are eaten in Italy and the recipe does not include cream as it sometimes does in Anglo-Italian restaurants. The bacon should ideally be pancetta, an unsmoked variety which looks rather like a giant salami. It is often found in Italian grocers, but English bacon, smoked or unsmoked to taste, is an acceptable substitute.

All these dishes are equally at home on a lunch or supper table and useful standbys when there are unplanned-for mouths to feed.

Ham and cheese soufflé

Serves four

8 slices crustless white bread

4 slices cooked ham

4 slices Cheddar cheese  
3 large eggs  
¼ teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon dry mustard  
300 ml (½ pint) milk  
Make four unbuttered sandwiches with the bread, ham and cheese. Lay them in one layer in a lightly buttered oven-proof dish. Beat the eggs with the salt, mustard and milk and pour this custard over the sandwiches. Bake the dish, uncovered, in a pre-heated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about an hour, or until the custard is puffed and firm. Serve immediately.

Cheese and egg bake  
Serves four  
110g (4½ oz) grated Cheddar cheese  
4 large eggs  
4 tablespoons single cream or milk  
Cinnamon, salt and pepper to taste

Sprinkle half the cheese over the base of a buttered oven-proof dish. Make four shallow depressions in the cheese and break an egg into each dip. Sprinkle the remaining cheese and the milk over the eggs and season them lightly with ground cinnamon, salt and pepper.

Bake the dish, uncovered, in a pre-heated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for 20 to 25 minutes, or until the eggs are set as you like them. Serve on its own, on slices of hot buttered toast, or best of all, on split and toasted muffins topped with thinly sliced, lean gammon steaks.

Spaghetti alla carbonara  
Serves four to six  
225 g (8 oz) pancetta or streaky bacon in one thick slice  
4 cloves garlic, peeled  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
30 g (1 oz) butter  
4 tablespoons dry white wine  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
450 g (1 lb) spaghetti  
3 large eggs  
85 g (3 oz) freshly grated Parmesan cheese  
3 tablespoons finely chopped parsley

Chop the pancetta or bacon into sticks or dice and bruise the garlic cloves with the flat of a knife. Heat the oil and butter together in a small saucepan and add the pancetta or bacon and garlic. Cook them together until both are golden, and add the wine. Boil until the wine is well-reduced, then discard the garlic. Keep warm.

Cook the spaghetti, uncovered, in plenty of boiling salted water and drain it as soon as it is tender but still has a little bite in the middle of each strand.

Meanwhile, break the eggs into a warmed serving bowl. Add the cheese and parsley and a generous sprinkling of black pepper. Beat lightly together and toss it in the egg mixture until it is well coated. Add the pancetta or bacon with its fat and toss the spaghetti again to combine the ingredients.

Serve immediately.

Still in my money saving vein may I suggest ways of filling our gardens with biennials and perennials at low cost — always provided we have the patience to wait one, or two years for our flowers.

Today I am thinking about hardy border flowers from seed. Later I will look at rock garden plants which may be raised from seed or propagated easily by cuttings.

This is the time to sow the orange or yellow Siberian wallflowers, varieties of *Cheiranthus allionii* which, as they always do, have come through the bitter winter unscathed. The ordinary wallflowers should be sown now too, and there is a new dwarf variety "Caroline Bieder" in the Hurst Garden Pride range. Wallflowers sown now and lined out when large enough, fed and watered will provide large bushy plants for setting out in the autumn.

So too with foxgloves, myosotis, sweet williams, Canterbury bells, daisies (Bellis perennis, varieties) and Iceland poppies. Sown soon in boxes of seed compost, in a cold frame or under some cloches they may be pricked off and grown on until they are ready to plant in the autumn.

Look in catalogues and indeed in the racks of seed in garden centres for F<sub>1</sub> hybrids — they are always worth the extra money. I make no excuse for enthusing about the new F<sub>1</sub> pansies, "Azure Blue", "Sunny Boy" and "Sunny Gold" — yellow, "Imperial Blue" and "Imperial Yellow", "Indian Boy" rich red and the several F<sub>1</sub> mixtures available.

We raised a good number last year and now we are

reaping the benefit. The plants will flower for many weeks. All through the winter we have had some pansies in bloom — some even reappeared quite cheerfully in flower after the snows melted.

The genus *Campanula* is really remarkable for the number of fine garden plants it has given us. Those suitable for the rock garden I hope to deal with another day when I offer ideas for raising rock garden plants from seed.

But I would like to mention here both the blue and white forms of the chimney bellflower, *Campanula pyramidalis*, as its name suggests it makes a shapely plant about three to four feet high or even more. It is also a splendid plant to grow in a large pot or tub to flower in a cold greenhouse, sun lounge, or to grow outside and bring into the hall or a large room just as it comes into flower. I first saw it, in full flower, in three plants in large pots or small tubs lining the entrance hall to some chateau in Touraine when I went on a school tour of France.

They were selling seeds of it at the souvenir stall and I spent some of my precious francs on a packet. Father, I remember, was not very impressed by my gift, as his house in Hyde Park did not have a hall big enough to display a tubful of this handsome species. We have a sun lounge however and have planted up several large pots with the idea of bringing

## Gardening/Roy Hay Planting profitably

them indoors towards the end of the year.

The modern varieties of biennial flowers may be counted upon to come very true and even from seed. So too will some perennial flowers, but with others the seedlings may show considerable variation. It is not generally realized that vast numbers of perennial flowers sold in small pots or containers in garden centres have been raised from seed so that there may well be variation in colour, size of flower, or height and habit of plants.

This does not matter very much if we raise these perennials from seed. If out of a batch we decide to discard some of the less desirable seedling forms this is no great loss and one can then proceed, in time, to propagate the better forms by division or cuttings, whichever vegetative means is appropriate.

Of course, so many people are in a great hurry these days and are prepared to spend between 50 and 100p for a small perennial plant. If

they have patience they may raise quite a lot of plants from a packet of seed costing from 25p upwards according to the variety.

This is an area where cooperation between several friends pays off handsomely. If they club together and buy a packet of say a dozen or even more different perennial seeds and share out the seedlings, in a couple of years they can have some really colourful beds and borders.

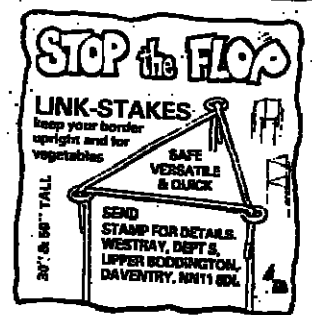
The nearer these perennials are to the original species, the less likely they are to show wide variations in the progeny — *Lycnis*

*chalcidonica* is perhaps the most vivid scarlet herbaceous plant; *Stachis dumosa* and *S. latifolia*, the everlasting sweet-smelling varieties of *Lathyrus latifolius* are a mixture of red, rose or white flowers are fine value; the balloon flower, the blue *Platycodon grandiflorum* "Mariesii"; the Chinese Lanterns, *Physalis* (franchetii), *Incarvillea delavayi*, *Dicentra fraxinella*, the blue *Scilla maritima*, *Malva alcea fastigata* all these breed very true from seed.

Modern strains of the following may be relied upon to give a good percentage of excellent seedlings: lupins, delphiniums both tall and dwarf, *Scabiosa caucasica* varieties, coreopsis (not to be confused with the annual varieties), *Gaillardia heterophylla*, *Kniphofia* (red hot poker) and penstemons.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ONE MORE YEAR

Negotiations on reducing Britain's payment to the European Community have been going so badly that the Government probably has no option but to try to negotiate for a one year holding arrangement with a promise to try again next year. If the figures are right such an arrangement could be good for Britain but it will be bad for the Community. It is in everyone's interest to mean that the whole messy wrangle will start again in 1983, just in time to get embroiled in the next general election. Constant argument over who should pay the bill is no way to make the Community a force for progress.

Britain has been looking for a relatively long term agreement on the budget question with guarantees of extra payments if things go wrong. The other Community countries have been offering a shorter period (three years instead of five) with a fixed scale of payments. They have also been offering less money than Britain wants, so that this year the United Kingdom would make a net contribution of around £500m. This is not good enough, even as a temporary agreement.

There is no reason why Britain, one of the poorest Community countries, should be the biggest payer. If the government agrees to an unfair arrangement this year it will rule out any chance of doing better in later years. That is not acceptable and the other members of the EEC should show they recognise this fact by increasing the size of their offer. If they do not do so, the government would have no choice but to press on with its demands at the cost of great disruption to the Community.

That cost could be very great. Britain has been delaying agreement on a new round of farm price increases in an attempt to put pressure on other Community countries to increase their offer on our Budget contribution. That tactic shows little sign of having been successful, but it has caused great problems for the Community as a whole. It is in everyone's interest to mean that the whole messy wrangle will start again in 1983, just in time to get embroiled in the next general election. Constant argument over who should pay the bill is no way to make the Community a force for progress.

The natural government preoccupation with the crisis over the Falklands means that now is a bad time for the UK to try to come up with proposals which deal with the Community's long-term budgetary problem. But that problem has to be solved.

The present system has two main defects. The first is that too high a proportion of Community revenue is raised through levies on imports of food. This is bound to put a country such as Britain, which is not self-sufficient, at a disadvantage. Although the United Kingdom has switched its sources of supply to some extent it is still bound to be a significant net importer from the rest of the world, which means that its gross contribution to the Community's funds will be large. The second defect in the current system is that the Community spends too much money on agriculture and not enough on other things. This imbalance in spending hits Britain hardest because we have a smaller farming population; but it is a problem for the Community as a whole, which has long been recognized as such.

Recognizing a problem is not the same thing as solving

it and the Community's efforts so far have been less than half-hearted. This year's farm price settlement, with increases of more than 10 per cent will make matters worse. The Community needs to carry out a thoroughgoing reform of its activities and financing going far beyond the specific problem of Britain's contribution.

The question which the Government has had to face is whether this is the time when long term reform can be carried through. Most of the factors point against it. The United Kingdom needs the support of its European partners over the Falklands affair. Although they are unlikely to desert us simply because of a disagreement over farm prices, a major row over European finance now would weaken the unity which has been achieved.

Nor do the circumstances within the Community suggest that long-term reform is ripe. Little progress has been made on reforming the structure of Community spending. There is, as yet, no consensus that the system of finance should contain what amounts to a safety net to prevent a country such as Britain facing unexpected increases in its bills from the Community.

The United Kingdom would thus be right to agree on a one-year arrangement, accept agreement on farm price increases (though reluctantly) and work constructively to reach a better solution next year. The two conditions which the Government should insist on being met are that this year's rebate be more than the £450m offered and that a new agreement be negotiated next year.

### PANORAMA'S BLIND SPOT

When the presenter of a television programme joins the attack upon it, it is evident that this is not a simple battle between broadcasters and politicians. It is important that this should be appreciated, because otherwise those who were unhappy at last Monday's *Panorama* might conclude that this justified the more general hue and cry over the BBC's coverage of the crisis. In his courageous letter, which was published on this page yesterday, Mr Robert Kee made it clear that he was criticising the programme not because the minority view was heard on it — he expressly approved of that — nor because it gave offence to politicians, but because he believed it had failings in broadcasting terms.

The purpose of the programme — as explained by its editor, Mr George Carey, in another letter — was to examine the minority view and the reasoning behind it. So four backbenchers, two Tories and two Labour, all of them critical of Government policy, were interviewed; as was the chairman of the Conservative Party, Mr Cecil Parkinson, whose conversation with Mr Kee concluded the programme.

It is a familiar television technique to build up in the first part of a programme a case which the principal interviewee is then invited to answer. This did not work on this occasion for two reasons. Most of the specific assertions of the critics were not subjected to sufficient scrutiny; and the juxtaposition of these sharply

contrasting views was liable to give the casual viewer a misleading impression of the balance of parliamentary opinion.

It is true that it was stated that the critics were a minority. But the impact on the viewer who is not well informed on the range of parliamentary opinion has to be considered. He could well conclude as he saw one backbencher after another, from different parties, putting the case against the Government — with no backbencher setting out the other point of view — that ministers were pursuing their policy in the face of a generally sceptical, if not openly hostile, House of Commons.

It is evident that a good many people felt that this was the message conveyed by the programme. This was not what the programme-makers themselves intended. It was not what the programme actually said. But, as everyone knows, the general impression created by a television programme is critical. The objection to it in this instance is not that it is misleading in this way at such a time was bound to cause much offence.

The impression could have been avoided by including a mainstream Conservative backbencher and a Labour supporter of his own front bench, as well as the dissidents. The effect would have been to blur the sweet simplicity of the contrast between Mr Parkinson and the critics. But it is one of the fallacies of television that

sharply conflicting opinions have to be the staple diet of current affairs. Too often that underestimates the seriousness of the audience for such programmes even in normal times. But these are not normal times. The graver the crisis, the less the public needs to have its interest stimulated, and the more necessary it is to portray the full scene as accurately as possible.

To express these criticisms is not, however, to join in the chorus of hysterical complaint against the programme-makers. They have not been unfairly or treacherously. They have simply produced a programme to which certain objections have been made, which should be coolly examined by the BBC without any corporate defensiveness. The more the BBC is prepared to take criticism of an individual programme on its merits, the more readily will it be accepted that whatever the failings of this particular edition of *Panorama* they do not justify the more sweeping accusations against the Corporation's general coverage of the Falklands dispute.

The BBC has an obligation to inform its audience in this country and overseas of all the facts, comforting and dismaying, and of all shades of opinion, supportive and dissenting. It has in general performed that duty well and politicians in an over-excited frame of mind will do the country disservice if they allow a justifiable indignation over a particular episode to lead them into a campaign of pressure and persecution.

### Standing firm on the EEC Budget

From Mr Robert Jackson, MEP for Upper Thames (Conservative)  
Sir, A malign coincidence has brought together internal and external crises in the European Community, both affecting Britain. Over this weekend we are seeking to renew the Community's sanctions against Argentina at precisely the same moment as we are asking for very substantial budgetary payments from the Community, and blocking the adoption of the European farm price package.

In this conjuncture there are many voices arguing that the Government should relent on our claims with regard to the Community Budget. Their arguments should be resisted.

As Mr Cheysson's remarks show, the Community's governments are not so crass as to make a link between the two sets of issues. If they were to do so, for one would doubt the value of support accorded on such a basis, given that its principal purpose must be to impress Argentina with the intensity of international feeling against her.

The issues at stake in the dispute about Britain's net contribution to the Community are of fundamental importance. The amounts of money involved should not be underestimated, a potential net payment every year which, if uncorrected, could be of the order of £1,000m. Britain's total aid to the Third World, or even greater.

But even more significant are the principles which Britain is trying to establish in the Community Budget — that the pattern of net payments through the Community Budget should be some reflection of capacity to pay, and that the overall structure of Community policies should reflect a balance of advantage for all member states.

Neither of these principles is yet embodied in the Community budget. But they are of very important British interests: they also embody the highest interests of the Community. This is why the British Government must stand firm on this front, as on others.

Yours, etc.,  
ROBERT JACKSON,  
4 Churton Place, SW1,  
May 13.

From Mr Derek Prag, MEP for Hertfordshire (Conservative)  
Sir, Really, only one thing needs to be said about Mr Simmerson's letter (April 30) criticising some of the Community's solidarity with us in the Falklands dispute: as usual, he's got it all wrong.

He says there is nothing about exports in the European Community support measures. There is. Then, to illustrate what our partners can continue to export to the Community, he picks out the very item, arms, on the export of which the EEC immediately imposed a total ban.

How unfortunate for Mr Simmerson, too, that he didn't have a chance of reading beforehand your leader entitled "Time to be nice to Europe" (published in the same paper as his letter), in which you talk of the Community's "prompt and unanimous show of solidarity", the "almost miraculous" speed with which it reacted, and the "solidarity" which it has shown to the Community's interests, to assign a substantial and positive value to the promotion of harmony and cooperation within the European Community.

It was also bad luck for him that he didn't wait for the *Telegraph* (May 1), in which Nicholas Ashford writes: "The American measures fall well short of the trade and economic sanctions adopted by Britain's partners in the European Community."

It would have been difficult indeed for Mr Simmerson to have been more wrong, and unfortunately, when it comes to Europe, I'm afraid he's added, quite.

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK PRAG,  
The Euro-centre,  
Maynard House,  
The Common,  
Herts.,  
May 1.

### The jury system

From Mr T. R. M. Simon  
Sir, Last year I sat on a jury at the London Crown Court, and we were told by the Usher that if we had any questions, to submit them as a note to the Judge, through him. I did so in a theft case and, as a direct result, the Judge asked the prosecution for further evidence. This turned out to destroy their case and turned a probable conviction into a certain acquittal.

I suggest that an explanation of how to ask questions should be a standard part of jury briefing in the future.

Yours sincerely,  
T. R. M. SIMON,  
94, Manchurch Road, SW11.

### Woman on patrol

From Mr Brendan Halpin  
Sir, A 19-year-old woman police constable has been injured in an attack by thugs. This brave young lady had been given the "equal opportunity" now granted to her sex to go on solitary foot patrols in the depths of the night in an always law-abiding city.

I am sure that I am not alone in being shocked at this. We must be the only mammalian species to use its females to preserve the communal peace. The present policy makes no sense.

Yours faithfully,  
BRENDAN HALPIN,  
11 Park Street,  
Charlbury,  
Oxfordshire.

### Keeping an eye on Falklands reporting

From Dr Timothy Hollins  
Sir, Your correspondents on the Falklands crisis (May 13) have raised a number of interesting points. Sir Angus Maude criticises BBC interviewers, with some justice, for asking exclusively negative questions of the "But isn't this likely to alienate" variety. Does this not itself indicate that the preponderance of those interviewed are supporters of the line which the Government has taken?

The BBC is clearly in a quandary. It demonstrates support for the majority view by giving greater air-time to adherents of the present policy than to dissidents. Yet at the same time it feels morally bound by the paramount position it accords to "right" and "truth" to question all such statements. That the corporation spends much time discussing and questioning Government decisions and actions is thus, paradoxically, proof of its general acceptance of the line the Government has taken.

This present attack on the BBC by those who genuinely feel that it is failing to act in the national interest only reinforces the need for a "off-air" broadcasting video-archive where material which is subject to criticism can be objectively analyzed. It is appalling that whilst all printed publications are deposited in copyright libraries, the broadcast media which informs our democracy and dominates our culture is very largely lost.

This is particularly true of news and current affairs programmes where often neither a transcript of a spontaneous interview nor a recording of a live programme is kept by the broadcasting organization concerned. Whilst welcoming S. L. Blackmore's call for an open access monitoring unit, therefore, I would suggest that a full-scale off-air broadcasting video-archive is even more desirable, as well as being both technically and economically feasible. It should be established without delay.

Finally Mr John Stokes describes broadcasting as "business". Lord Reith's original conception was of broadcasting as "the nervous system of the body politic" and "an integrator for democracy". Have we advanced so far as to believe that these ideals are incapable of realization? I venture to hope not.

Yours faithfully,  
T. J. HOLLINS,  
9 St Margaret's Road,  
Oxford,  
May 13.

From Mr Anthony Chinnick  
Sir, As someone who until retirement at the end of 1976 had spent four years as Deputy Chief of Public Relations at the Ministry of Defence, may I, through your columns, entreat ministers, members of Parliament and journalists to stop the present outbreak of mutual recrimination over the reporting of events in the South Atlantic area before it gets out of hand.

It is inevitable that ministers, because they are so close to events and have responsibility for action, will at times resent the way those events are reported. It is also inevitable that journalists will at times be convinced that ministers, through their various channels of communication, are giving the full story and will seek out other sources of information.

These are basic facts of life and are healthy in our free society, and in the most serious of potential sources of friction between the two parties. Therefore unless the Government decides to take full wartime powers over the control of information, which presumably it will not, the reporting of events by ministers must be prepared to accept occasional reporting which is not to their taste.

Equally, journalists must be very careful not to damage this country's interests by careless slurs, or by news or clumsy phrasing, while retaining their freedom to comment and criticise. But above all both parties must recognise that the national need is for a unity of purpose to which each must devote a considerable effort.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
ANTHONY CHINNICK,  
13 Winchelsea Road,  
South Croydon,  
Surrey.

### The Baptist view

From Mr Bernard Green  
Sir, It appears that on the Falklands issue the Churches cannot win. In the BBC "Sunday" programme Church leaders were taken to task for their "deafening silence". On Monday your correspondent, Clifford Longley, argued that statements made last week by the Baptist Union Assembly and the British Council of Churches would have been better left unsaid because we lacked the political competence to make them. Then on Tuesday you featured Ted Harrison's "Onward whose Christian soldiers?" repeating the arguments that Christian leaders must debate and question the moral issues and not be afraid to be heard on "the undiluted Gospel message".

It is true that we do not have inside knowledge of events; they change so rapidly that within an hour of my writing they may be considerably different. What I would wish to emphasize is that even at this late stage every attempt should be made to achieve a solution by non-violent means.

The concept of two nations slugging it out against one another is a dangerous and expensive anachronism. It is an anachronism because it smacks of nationalism and we live in a global village. It is dangerous because it could so easily lead to an escalation of war beyond the control of any nuclear holocaust. It is expensive because many human lives are at risk and too many have already been lost.

The seeds of future strife are being sown; this could produce a highly volatile situation in which a nationalist solution has to be maintained from a distance for many years to come.

It was for such reasons that Baptists in their Assembly last week stressed the necessity of international solution through the United Nations, urging the Government to avoid escalation of the conflict by all possible means. Is it too much to ask that Britain should have the courage to give a moral lead to the world?

One thing is crystal clear, God loves both nations and desires peace between them. If we claim to be Christians we must work and pray with others for a solution as near as possible to the goal for which Jesus taught us to pray. "Thy will be done on earth."

Yours sincerely,  
BERNARD GREEN,  
General Secretary,  
The Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland,  
Baptist Church House,  
4 Southampton Row, WC1,  
May 4.

### Catholic Church and contraception

From Mr Keith C. Clarke  
Sir, Monsignor Leonard's letter on "Following the Pope on contraception" (May 8) is deeply touching. We learn that Cardinal Hume joins with the Pope in wanting "better arguments" to underpin the assertions in *Humanae Vitae* — assertions modestly described in the encyclical itself as axiomatic. I wish them well. But they are on dangerous ground.

If these novel arguments manage to repair the shattered credibility of the Catholic Church's traditional moral stand on many matters affecting the family, it will truly be a triumph for the working of the Holy Spirit. But if they simply turn out to be a reshuffle of the tautological apologetics of old, such efforts will be rewarded by an exodus from the Catholic Church even more dramatic than that experienced since 1968.

My own memory may be longer than that of Monsignor Leonard or, alternatively, my perspectives different. Thirty years ago in the North of England priests often preached to "family congregations" about the evils of contraception, and tawdry little Catholic Truth Society pamphlets upon this and related topics festooned just about every church bookshelf.

As to the forthcoming papal visit, it might be more honest to say that members of the Catholic community await it with not a little trepidation. What will the good man say? Maybe that the principles enshrined in *Humanae Vitae* are self-evident truths? If he does, it could change this ostensibly fatuous document into a tragically prophetic in a sense entirely different from that understood and intended by Cardinal Hume.

I express these sentiments with a heavy heart: first, as a professional lawyer engaged for 20 years in advising family courts; secondly, as a barely discernible member of the Catholic community. Yours faithfully,  
KEITH C. CLARKE,  
Clerk to the Magistrates, Southampton Magistrates' Court, 51 Commercial Road, Southampton, May 10.

From Mr B. J. Whelan  
Sir, Commenting on Monsignor Leonard's letter (May 8), Mr Robert Nowell's letter which you publish today (May 12) pleads for a little bit of honesty in the Church — the morality of the morality of contraception.

Did we not get some from Monsignor Leonard himself? His acknowledgment that the Pope, as well as Cardinal Hume, wants "better arguments" to underpin the teaching of *Humanae Vitae* is the nearest I have seen the Hierarchy come to admitting that the existing arguments are not good enough. Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD WHELAN  
Southanger, Gorse Close, Farnham, Surrey, May 12.

### Sharing lending right

From Mr Peter Owen  
Sir, Lord Willis's letter (May 1) fails to take into consideration that Publishers' Association has been closely involved in negotiations with successive governments throughout the campaign.

The Society of Authors originally admitted that any revenue from library borrowings was part of publishers' volume rights, and a division of proceeds was fixed at 25 per cent to publishers and 75 per cent to authors. Under pressure from the militant authors running the unofficial alternative association, they eventually renounced this agreement.

If authors were able to be their own publishers they could not hesitate; however they realize that a publisher's expertise and capital is essential if a book is to be successfully published and distributed.

When a library buys one or two books from a publisher, each copy may be read by as many as 50 people, with resultant loss of sales to both publishers and authors.

At this time, when publishers are reeling, and are having to turn down many novels, some of them quality books, surely it is in the interests of authors to have more secure and adventurous publishers and not attempt to defraud them of what is part of their inalienable right?

A book is a partnership between author and publisher without which there would be nothing for library readers to borrow!

Yours faithfully,  
PETER OWEN,  
Peter Owen Ltd, Publishers,  
73 Kanway Road, SW5,  
May 1.

### Out of site

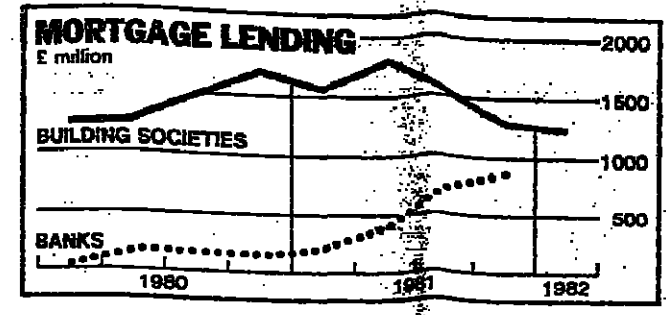
From Mr Timothy J. M. Gray  
Sir, Your diary in *The Times* of Monday, 10th May, 1982, in announcing the conversion of 62 Rodney Street, the birthplace of Mr Gladstone, remarks that this distinguished residence has stood empty recently.

Now I'm wondering where I've been these last two and a half years. Yours invisibly,  
TIMOTHY J. M. GRAY,  
62 Rodney Street,  
Liverpool,  
May 12.









Money promised to homebuyers by the building societies remained at near record levels during April, with net new commitments totalling £1,416m compared with the all-time high of £1,491m in March. Building societies also did well on the deposit taking side during April, raising £1,437m, the highest figures since January 1981 when they took in £446m. Net receipts in March stood at £264m.

**STOCK EXCHANGES**  
FT Index 590.6 up 5.4  
FT 100 336.93 up 0.06  
Bergsma 17.790  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones  
index 7,575.81 down 27.40  
Hongkong: Hang Seng index  
1,367.53 down 16.32

**INTEREST RATES**  
Base rates 13 per cent  
3 month interbank 13 1/4-13 1/2  
Euro-currency Rates  
3 month dollar 14 1/4-14 1/2  
3 month DM 8 1/4-8 1/2  
3 month Fr 2 3/4-2 3/8

**Braniff 'will fly again'**  
Braniff, the first big airline to go bankrupt in the United States since the barnstorming days of the 1930s, is predicting that it will fly again. But many lawyers and analysts doubt it. They are wondering who will be next. Mr Howard Putnam, Braniff's chief executive, said yesterday that he had not joined the group to preside over its liquidation. "We'll be back, whether under the name of Braniff—or somebody else," he said.

**US car sales rise sharply**  
Sales of United States cars rose by 18 per cent in early May, a sharper increase than expected. General Motors sold the most cars as buyers responded to its cut-price financing rates as against sales promotions by other manufacturers. In response, Chrysler has begun a sales incentive programme in which dealers can get as much as \$500 for each car sold.

**£8m Thailand aircraft deal**  
Thailand's national airline has ordered four thirty-foot Short 330 commuter airliners from the Government-owned Belfast aerospace company. The contract, worth nearly £8m, was announced in Belfast yesterday, when the first two aircraft were handed over to Air Marshal Prayute Prachuabmoh, Thai Airways' managing director.

**Approval hope for ulcer drug**  
A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel has recommended approval of a new ulcer treatment drug. Known as Ranitidine, the drug would be marketed by Glaxo Inc., the United States subsidiary of Glaxo Holdings Ltd. An FDA spokesman said in Washington yesterday that the advisory panel's recommendation did not guarantee FDA approval of the new drug. The spokesman said the FDA's bureau of drugs would analyse results of tests on Ranitidine, and there was no way of determining when a final decision would be made.

**Boards axed**  
Orders were laid before Parliament yesterday for the winding up of training boards in air transport and travel, carpets, chemicals and allied products, footwear, leather and fur skin, iron and steel, knitting, lace and net, manmade fibres, wool jute and flax. Mr Peter Morrison, Employment Minister, said he hoped to announce within a few weeks the winding up of a further eight training boards which the Government decided to scrap last November.

**Wholesale rises**  
Japan's unadjusted wholesale price index (base 1975) rose 0.3 per cent last month to 136.4. The April index was up 2.8 per cent, compared to the same month last year. West Germany's wholesale price index (base 1975) rose 0.5 per cent in April to stand 6.2 per cent higher than in April last year. United States wholesale prices, as measured by the producer price index for finished goods, rose 0.1 per cent seasonally adjusted last month.

**COMPANIES**  
GEARS GROSS profits dropped £100,000 last year to just over £1m on turnover up from £46.3m to £53.3m. The reduction was blamed on lower margins on London business. Building Group M. J. GLEESON has increased pre-tax profits from £465,000 to £683,000 on a turnover down from £29m to £23m. The figures reflect the increasing importance from non-trading sources. Profits of ALLIED PLANT dropped from £1m to £44,000 in the 12 months to last December and went into loss of £976,000 after an extraordinary item.

**PRICE CHANGES**  
Johnson Group 236 up 29  
Trident TV 'A' 76 up 9  
Leigh Industries 108 up 12  
Glaxo 691 up 24  
British Sugar 505 up 15  
Minet Holdings 187 up 10  
GEC 902 up 10

## Lloyds Bank plans national estate agency network

Agents voice concern over move

By Baron Phillips

Lloyds Bank is set to make an ambitious expansion into the estate agency business after its acquisition of the Norfolk-based practice of Charles Hawkins & Son. The bank aims to have a national network of 100 agents, operating under the Blackhorse banner within a few years.

Last night Mr Roy Mercer, a director of Blackhorse Agencies, the company established to run the estate agency business, said he expected to acquire about 100 practices within the next five years.

Already, discussions are being held with a further three firms on London, the South East and Bristol.

**Howe defends N Sea taxes**

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has dismissed claims that high oil taxes are discouraging North Sea developments — although he conceded that the offshore oil construction industry is facing a difficult period.

"In a highly competitive world it will always be a struggle to survive," Sir Geoffrey Howe said in a speech to the Dundee and Tynesiders Chamber of Commerce. But the efficient and adaptable companies have the best chance.

Nearly 2,000 workers in production platform and module construction yards in Scotland and the North Sea have been told of redundancy possibilities because of the lack of new orders.

Sir Geoffrey said that before the last Budget he had looked carefully at the likely profitability of new North Sea developments using a variety of different assumptions about oil prices and the window, especially if other banks join in the race to buy up estate agents around the country," he said last night.

A Lloyds bank official denied that there was anything sinister about its plans.

**Costs rise for export credits**

By Clive Cookson

The era of single-figure interest rates for export credits ends today. The minimum rate for contracts signed after midnight tonight rises from 7.5 per cent to 10 per cent under an agreement reached six months ago by 22 Western industrial countries.

Two British export orders from India which have been in the final stages of negotiation for several months had not been signed last night and seem almost certain to miss the deadline. One is a £550m order for a 2,000 power station at Singrauli which is due to be awarded to a group headed by Northern Engineering Industries. The other is a £1,200m international project for a steel plant in Orissa, led by Davy McKee; nearly half of that work is expected to come to Britain.

It is understood that both projects will still go ahead although the financing arrangements will be changed.

The British Government, which has agreed to provide a substantial aid package to help win the contracts, said it may be praised for further financial assistance outside the framework of export credit guarantees.

What is galling for Britain is that earlier this week France managed to sign a £25m contract for electronic telephone exchanges to India, backed by credit guarantees from the French Government at the old 7.5 per cent rate. Britain's System X, offered by GEC, was one of the bidders, though it is in a running for a further large order.

The OECD's Consensus group agreed in the autumn to reduce subsidies on export interest rates and minimum rates were to go up by 2.5 per cent on contracts signed after May 15. Britain's Export Credits Guarantee Department estimates that the Government will save £170m in interest subsidies over three years.

The 22 member countries are not locked in dispute about a further reduction in subsidies. They are considering a complex compromise put forward by Mr Alex Wallen of Sweden, Consensus chairman.

**Grand Met profit hit by severe winter**

By Philip Robinson

The freeze last winter took £5m from Grand Metropolitan's profits to last March. All those who leave their homes to spend money to play bingo, to place a bet or go for a steak at a Berni Inn.

But a strong performance from the United States, from the London roulette tables and benefits from the group's reorganization in brewing and retailing — which pushed trading profit up almost a third — gave the group an opening half pre-tax profit of £74.8m against £68m last time. Turnover was more than a fifth higher at £1,827m.

The performance was better than many had expected and in the stock market, Grand Met shares moved up 5p to within a whisker of their year's peak at 221p.

The dividend is increased 10 per cent to 5p. Last year the group's total dividend was a gross 10.5p and yesterday Sir Maxwell Joseph, chairman, said the greater part of group trading profit is earned traditionally in the second half.

Grand Met will need that to cover what is estimated to be a £140m interest charge on its debts. That would be up from £90m on the year to last September, and double the £71m paid out in the opening half.

**Treasury denies rigging**

By David Blake, Economics Editor

The Treasury hit back yesterday at charges from the TUC that it had rigged its forecasting model for a meeting of the National Economic Development Council. The Treasury said the model is designed and defended the results.

The TUC alleged that the Treasury had given the NEDC figures designed to make a reduction in public spending the effect of different economic policies. The Treasury yesterday denied the validity of the complaints and stressed that there is no such thing as

**Objections fail to dampen trading**

Wall St ignores budget split

From Nicholas Hirst, New York, May 14

Wall Street is showing a surprising lack of concern at President Reagan's increasing problems in getting budget compromise through Congress that would cut the huge deficits projected for the next three years.

Stock markets here responded well to the initial agreement controlled by the Republican committee, endorsed by the President last week, but have not reacted sharply to the strong objections that plan that have emerged in the House of Representatives this week. In morning trading yesterday, the Dow Jones industrial share average was slightly higher in heavy trading at 859.97.

"On the Senate compromise, the markets responded and the process had begun," Mr Larry Wachtel, of stockbrokers Bache, Hal

**Base Lending Rates**

ABN Bank 13%  
Barclays 13%  
BCCI 13%  
Consolidated Crds 13%  
C. Hoare & Co 13%  
Lloyds Bank 13%  
Midland Bank 13%  
Nat Westminster 13%  
TSB 13%  
Williams & Glyn's 13%

**MR J S PERSON ESQ**  
Independent Oil Operator of  
Longview, Texas, USA,  
is stopping at the Dorchester and cordially invites those who might be interested in investing in an oil drilling venture in Longview County, Texas, to visit him there to discuss the matter.

J S Person, Box 1131  
Longview, Texas 75606 USA  
Telephone 214 7582631

## Saturday mornings on the homes front

Barclays' bid for business by re-introducing Saturday opening must be welcome to most cash customers, at least those who, on the surveys, bitterly resented the ending of the weekend service. Whether it will really succeed in commercial terms, however, is likely to depend on its home loan service during the extra hours of business.

The banks' existing customers long ago resigned themselves to inconvenient opening hours and have made other arrangements to obtain cash over a weekend, whether it is from a bank cash machine or simply by writing cheques over a bar counter. It is unlikely that paying-in and cheque cashing facilities on their own will attract anything more than a trickle of new customers.

Lloyds, which has 11 branches opening on Saturday mornings (compared with Barclays' one), freely admit that in terms of attracting new customers, the experiment has so far proved a failure.

However, that is not the only reason for Saturday opening. What the public also wants is a quick, cheap and simple home loan facility. The inroads made by the banks into this area of the building societies' business, have been dramatic. It is from the building societies that Barclays' hopes to pick up new business.

The acid test for Barclays will be whether they can give potential homebuyers a sensible mortgage service with advice from experienced staff. If all that is available is a home loan application form then the customers will stay with the building societies.

**IDA fund shortfall reduced**

From Peter Norman Helsinki, May 14

Mr A. W. "Tom" Clausen, the president of the World Bank, today claimed some success in his campaign to plug the gaps in the Bank's concessional lending funds. These were created by the refusal of the United States to fulfill its commitments to the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank's soft loan agency.

He told a press conference after a meeting of the development committee of the International Monetary Fund that the Netherlands, Japan and Luxembourg had said they would pay proportionally more of their current commitments to the IDA than the United States.

He estimated that the shortfall in IDA contributions for the year, to the end of June was now about \$150m.

"The situation is not as bleak as it was eight weeks ago," he said, although he added that "we are still not at the point we ought to be".

Multilateral soft loan agencies like the IDA are the sole source of external finance for the poorest nations, which cannot borrow on financial markets.

The present crisis in the agency has been precipitated by the United States Congress which has cut the United States' contribution on the grounds of budgetary restraint. This action, which reduces the IDA's capacity to finance projects, has a serious impact because other donor countries can cut their contributions in line with the American shortfall.

Mr Clausen said he did not think that the IDA would get all the \$12,000m funding envisaged in the original commitments for the three years to 1983.

**GUS A question**

Are the interests of the small shareholders once again being subsumed by the easy imperatives of the institutional shareholders in the case of the Great Universal Stores bid for Empire Stores?

Details of how the bid was organised by blue-blooded stockbrokers Cazenove have still to emerge. But reports suggest a classic case in which the major institutions in the hours before the bid was announced to suggest a price (in this case 113p a share).

The prey was obviously in a weak state. The institutions were under some pressure. The acquirer, Gussies, were able to gain a strong foothold.

**Bid for Woodrow Wyatt points to a battle**

By Drew Johnston

A battle for Woodrow Wyatt Holdings, the print group where receivers were called in on Thursday, became a distinct possibility yesterday.

London print broker Robert Hart Associates announced yesterday that it was putting together an offer to head off any bid from Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing and Communications Corporation.

Yesterday, Mr Maxwell was in discussion with union leaders about the offer. His representatives moved into the plant to assess the situation.

The consortium headed by

**M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited**  
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-821 1212

**The Over-the-Counter Market**

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price	Chgs	Gross Div	Yld	Act	P/E	Ult
130	140	130	Ass Brit Ind CULS	129	-	10.0	7.8	-	-	-
75	62	47	Airprung Group	724	-	4.7	6.5	11.4	15.8	-
51	33	4.3	Armitage & Rhodes	43	-	4.3	10.0	3.6	8.1	-
205	167	204	Barclay Hill	204	+1	9.7	4.8	9.9	12.1	-
107	100	107	CCL 1100 Conv Pref	107	-	15.7	14.7	-	-	-
267	260	265	CCL 1100 Group	265	-	26.4	10.0	10.7	12.0	-
104	61	62	Deborah Services	62	-	6.0	9.7	3.1	5.8	-
131	97	129	Frank Horshol	129	-	6.4	5.0	11.6	23.9	-
83	39	76	Frederick Parker	76	-	6.4	8.4	3.9	7.4	-
78	46	54	George Blair	54	-	-	-	-	-	-
102	93	99	Ind Prec Castings	99	+1	7.3	7.4	7.1	10.8	-
109	100	109	Isis Conv Pref	109	-	15.7	14.4	-	-	-
112	94	100	Isis Conv Pref	100	+1	7.0	7.0	3.1	7.1	-
134	108	113	James Burroughs	113	-	8.7	7.7	8.2	10.4	-
334	228	242	Robert Jenkins	242	-	31.3	12.9	3.4	8.6	-
67	51	67	Scribner "A"	67	+1	5.3	7.9	10.3	9.5	-
222	159	159	Torday & Carlisle	159	-	20.7	6.7	5.1	9.5	-
15	10	14	Twinkl Ord	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
80	66	80	Twinkl 15% ULIS	80	-	15.0	18.8	-	-	-
44	25	25	Unilock Holdings	25	-	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6	-
103	73	82	Walker Alexander	82	-	8.8	7.8	5.4	9.5	-
263	212	212	W.S. Yeates	212	+2	14.5	13.8	6.1	12.1	-

\* 7 day deposit on sum of under £10,000 10%  
£10,000 to £50,000 11%  
£50,000 and over 11 1/2%



## FAMILY MONEY

# Capital gains: new proposals a mess

This week the Institute for Fiscal Studies is holding a lunchtime seminar to discuss the indexation of Capital Gains Tax — proposals for which have been described by one stockbroker as "a complete dog's dinner".

The Chancellor, anxious to do something for those who suffer tax on inflationary gains, introduced changes in the Budget which would provide a substantial measure of relief. But his proposals have come in for much criticism — not least of all from the Stock Exchange whose members are likely to bear the full brunt of the costs of the new indexation calculations and administration. And it is not difficult to see why.

Many private investors with a portfolio of long-term holdings of shares would have some difficulty in working out their Capital Gains Tax under the existing rules. If the Government's proposals get through to the statute book unaltered, it will mean that the calculations will be totally beyond the average investor who will be obliged to employ a professional — hardly a desirable state of affairs.

And if the average investor has difficulty in working out his CGT liability there is little reason to suppose that the average clerk in a tax office will do any better. The Inland Revenue already manages to make mistakes in some 27 per cent of income tax coding notices which are relatively straightforward. The possibility of total chaos if a new CGT proposal is implemented must be substantial.

The Chancellor proposed that from April 5, 1982, the acquisition price of securities and other assets would be index-linked in line with inflation and Capital Gains Tax payable only on the excess over the inflation-adjusted acquisition cost. So far so good. But because indexation will not apply for the first year of ownership, it will not be possible to retain the existing "pooling" arrangements whereby shares purchased at different times and at varying prices are treated for CGT purposes as having been acquired at an "average" cost.

Most people find it quite difficult enough to grasp the concept of pooling. The new proposals are heinously complex.

Share acquired on or after April 6, 1982 will be subject to new rules. Disposals will be considered in chronological order, the earliest disposal first. On each disposal, shares will be identified first with shares acquired in the previous 12 months, on a first in, first out basis; and next with shares acquired more than 12 months before disposal on a last in, first out basis," says the Inland Revenue.

This difficult-to-digest explanation is simple compared with the total incomprehensibility of some of the detail. What chance does the typical private investor in shares — an elderly widow who has inherited money — have of applying these rules to their own affairs? Useless to say that she won't have a CGT liability and therefore won't need to do the sums to know how to do the sums to

work out whether or not she is liable.

The proposals have also been criticized on other grounds. While future capital gains will be indexed, because indexation will be based on acquisition cost rather than 1982 value, long-term holders of assets will continue to be unfairly treated. Indexation of their acquisition cost will bear no relation to future increases in the value of the asset arising from continued inflation.

The proposals have been described as typical of the Civil Service's obsession with equity above practicability. Sceptics have taken the view that Inland Revenue officials wanted to scupper the whole idea of indexation so deliberately concocted the most complicated scheme they could.

The commonsense solution would be to retain the proposed scheme for indexation of property gains, where it is relatively simple to calculate, but abandon the whole idea of indexation for securities — granting investors concessions elsewhere.

Finally, if the Government does go ahead with its proposals and indexes capital gains, what does it propose to do for investors with bank deposits, building society accounts and the like, all of whom have suffered massive capital losses in real terms and have been subjected to the added burden of taxes — at times as high as 83 per cent, on the income? Aren't investors entitled to relief.

## Getting an advance on antiques for auction

Antique owners who suddenly hit hard times will no longer be faced with the choice of parting with their valuables at a knock-down price or waiting three months for them to be sold at auction.

Up to 300 of the 350 or so auctioneers throughout the country will now be able to advance short-term loans of up to 50 per cent of the reserve price of the item in the forthcoming auction.

It is the brainchild of Mr Peter Humber, a former antique dealer. His company Fine Art Funding has the backing of First National Securities, a leading consumer credit company, and hopes to lead up to £20m in its first year.

The auctioneer will decide how much to advance, says Mr Humber. But there is a minimum of £250 and the objects must be high-quality, easily assessed and proven marketable. There is a minimum charge period for an advance of eight weeks with the interest rate charged of 4 per cent a week equivalent to an annual rate of 39 per cent. Mr Humber refutes the suggestion that this is costly. He says it includes all documentation and administrative costs, and that over a 10 week period it works out cheaper than a loan through Barclays, which is a 15 per cent charge on top of the APR of 30.6 per cent. Beyond 12 weeks however the reverse is true.

He believes that with annual auction house turnover topping £500m, there is an immense untapped market which will not only benefit the vendor but give the chosen auction houses a competitive edge over their rivals.

By offering the service in their advertising they will attract more goods to their sale and be under less pressure to sell and settle quickly, and hopefully provide a better service.

It is not clear which auction houses are about to be signed up but after working on the idea for the past year, talks are at an advanced stage with a number of large firms. These will almost certainly include Christies and Sothebys.

While the provincial auctioneer might not be allowed to make an advance against an unknown Rembrandt, Mr Humber is convinced that it is a far safer way of getting a fair price for that valuable heirloom than the fast auction sales started last year by certain auction houses which had a depressing effect on sale-price prices.

Gareth David



Leasehold flats are often homebuyers' first choice, but there can be problems on insurance

## The confessions of a worried leaseholder

I have just claimed £300 from an insurance company to which I was not sure I was strictly entitled. The reason I am not worried about making this potentially damaging confession is that the insurance company concerned is quite happy with the situation, and I was totally unaware that I might be in the wrong.

This latest episode in my action-packed relations with the insurance industry (last autumn, a house caught fire) highlights a very grey, if not positively black, side of property insurance — the problems leaseholders have in making sure they are adequately covered, or even covered at all.

Several years ago I bought a modest seaside flat for my mother. Under the terms of the 99-year lease, the freeholder arranged the insurance for the whole property and recouped the premium from the various leaseholders. After a few years no one bothered to ask for the premiums. The property changed hand several times in quick succession. No one knew who the owner was, let alone whether the building was insured.

I was worried about the property and promptly insured the flat with Commercial Union, Ltd. I was covered if it was insured at all, your only recourse is to sue him for breach of covenant and damages.

The drawbacks of going to court are obvious. First a freeholder who has been irresponsible enough not to insure the property is unlikely to have the cash to compensate the leaseholders. In addition the leaseholder may not have the resources to bring a contested action — particularly if paying for alternative accommodation.

It appears that there is no easy answer. If you are responsible for the internal decorations or have made expensive internal improve-

ments such as new wooden floors, central heating and the like, which are not strictly part of the buildings, you can generally insure these without too much trouble.

So far as the building's insurance is concerned, ask your solicitor (preferably at the time of purchase) to insist that the freeholder registers your interest in the property with the insurer. You can then deal directly with the insurance company and discover whether the property is adequately covered — or if the freeholder fails to pay the premium.

For leaseholders who do what I did and take out a policy to be on the safe side, the worry must be whether the insurer would contest liability if there was a large claim. Most insurers turn a blind eye to the strict legalities where small claims are concerned and pay out. But would they baulk at accommodating a total loss of £40,000?

If, like me, you have insurance and are not sure whether you are covered, write to your insurance company and get them to confirm the position.

So far as Commercial Union is concerned the issue is clear cut. They confirm that they will give full cover to leaseholders who are worried about the extent of cover taken out by the freeholder. But only one policy on the market has been designed to deal specifically with this situation.

Knitel Flat Protection Plan was launched a couple of weeks ago by insurance brokers Knight, Ellis and Cornhill Insurance. Under this policy the leaseholder can be reimbursed the value of the lease if the flat is still uninhabitable or inaccessible two years after damage or disaster.

Margaret Drummond

## MONEY TALK

## Betting on an unlikely scheme

It is doubtful whether dealing in racehorses is quite what the Chancellor had in mind when he introduced his business start-up scheme to encourage entrepreneurs. But this is the use it has been put to by investment adviser Julian Gibbs who is confident that investors will be able to claim full tax relief on investments of up to £30,000 in a horse-trading company.

Minimum investment is £1,000 and top rate taxpayers could have a share in 12 horses at a net cost of only £250, says Mr Gibbs. The scheme appears to be taking advantage of the £20,000 worth of income tax relief granted to investors in new businesses. The original relief when the scheme was first introduced in the 1981 Finance Act was £10,000 per annum but was upped to £20,000 in the March Budget. Investors were also given the facility to carry forward unused relief from 1981-82 into 1982-83 — hence the maximum investment in Julian Gibbs new scheme of £30,000.

What the Inland Revenue will think of Mr Gibbs' horse trading enterprise is difficult to judge but initial reaction is that it will not work. Investors are warned by Mr Gibbs that "this should be considered as a speculative investment, but the odds are considerably shortened with the help of the taxman". This assumes that the taxman's help is forthcoming.

### £1m on loan

Accountants, solicitors and other professionals have lined up over £1 million worth of loans through Barclays Bank's unsecured loan facility. The scheme is linked to self-employed pension contracts and presently some 26 insurance companies are approved by Barclays. Professionals can borrow from Barclays's up to 15 times their annual contribution to a self-employed pension plan, though the loan is not automatic or guaranteed. The loan is eventually repaid on retirement out of the converted pension benefits.

"We have made a positive decision to try and extend our lending to professionals," says Barclays' David Rouse who masterminded the scheme. "Provisional returns from some 60 of our branches indicate that loans totalling £1 million have been agreed."

Money borrowed has to be used for business purposes — usually the purchase or extension of business premises, or the purchase of a stake in a partnership. In the initial stages the loan facility is likely to prove better business for the life offices associated with Barclays. An unsecured loan facility is a useful marketing ploy with the self-employed. The preferential interest rate is the other attraction — only 2 per cent over Barclays' base rate. Minimum premium which qualifies for the facility is £3,000 per annum.

### A change of heart

Getting caught by the Inland Revenue is not the only risk you run if you are a tax evader. The Government's freezing of assets of Argentinian residents has presented some of the London banks with a ticklish problem. It appears that some customers who had claimed Argentinian residence — presumably because as non-residents, the interest on their accounts would not be declared to the Inland Revenue — are now revealing (or claiming) that they were not really resident in Argentina at all and please could they have their money back.

The banks, anxious not to reveal how easy it is for customers to pull the wool over their eyes, are doing the proper thing and refusing to release the deposits.

### Service overlooked

In the flurry over Barclays Bank's announcement of Saturday morning opening, (400 selected branches starting in August), the fact that National Westminster Bank is now offering 100 per cent home loans was overlooked. Borrowers with NatWest will now be able to obtain a 100 per cent loan on homes up to £40,000 and 95 per cent loans above that figure. Maximum term has been extended from 25 to 30 years. Borrowers should remember that 100 per cent loans means 100 per cent of the bank's valuation — not necessarily the same thing as the asking price.

### Soldiers' fears

Since the departure of the task force, fears have been expressed that our soldiers may find their life insurance excludes death or injury as a result of military conflict. The British Insurance Brokers' Association stresses that free advice is available from insurance brokers who specialise in arranging insurance for service personnel. These brokers are all members of EIBA's specialist group — The Armed Forces Insurance Brokers Committee and a list of members is available from pay officers in the army.

## Fund to ride a US recovery

There is a forceful argument that says that if there is to be worldwide economic recovery it will happen first in the United States. The only really dubious point when? Unit trust managers Henderson believe it is not far away and is launching this week-end an American Recovery Trust which aims to take advantage of the turnaround — when it comes.

Henderson's strength is undoubtedly in the area of specialist funds. Among overseas trusts it has six trusts in the top half of the league table over the 12-month period with Henderson European at 10th, Henderson Pacific Smaller Companies at 20 and Henderson North American at 22nd.

Its Special Situations fund is sixth in the growth fund league table with Capital Growth at number 10, while Henderson Oil and Natural Resources stands at four in the specialist performance table.

The new fund is an American Recovery Trust which will concentrate on investment in three principal sectors.



Richard Henderson expects recovery.

Those companies which have recently been out of favour, because of the economic situation but which the managers, Richard Henderson and Ben Wrey feel are due to stage a comeback. This would include banking or insurance, machine tools, housing and mining.

The second group comprises companies which have suffered an unwarranted

collapse in share price following a temporary fall in profits. The third area being companies where the injection of new management skills is expected to have a significant impact on profit performance.

What about the exchange rate risk? "I would have thought the dollar would be quite strong over the next six months," says Ben Wrey, but he is not expecting and significant change in the dollar/sterling exchange rate.

Why buy Henderson's American Recovery fund when there are already several others in the market? It is much easier to make a small fund perform well and managers tend to go all out with a new fund to produce the best track record possible. "We think we have at least as much expertise in this field as other groups," comments Wrey. Henderson's other American trusts, Henderson's North American and Henderson Cabot American Smaller Companies have shown growth of 78 per cent and 100 per cent respectively over the past five years.

## Tax savings on a portable pension plan

Of the 21 million employees in this country, only 11.5 million will receive any pension from their firm when they retire. The rest are expected to make their own arrangements and are largely unaware that if they are in "non-pensionable" employment, they are eligible for full tax relief on contributions to a "self-employed" pension scheme.

To qualify for this tax relief you have to be either genuinely self-employed, or working for a firm which does not have a pension scheme. Even if the company does have a scheme, if you choose to opt out, you can obtain full tax relief on your personal pension contributions. For younger employees and those who change jobs frequently, this may be the best course of action.

Clearly if your employer runs a good pension scheme and you intend to remain until retirement age, it makes no sense to miss out on these benefits. But all too frequently, job changers get such a raw deal, they would be better off putting their money into a personal pension scheme.

The advantage of a personal pension scheme as a means of saving is that tax relief at your highest rate paid is allowed on all contributions up to 17.5 per cent of earnings (more for the over 50s). For the basic-rate taxpayer this means that every £100 saved costs only £70, and at the top end of the scale the sixty per cent taxpayer has to find only £40 for each £100 invested.

The drawback with putting money into a personal pension scheme is that it is locked up until retirement age, though with the introduction of "loanbacks" on most schemes this is much less of a problem. Your contributions can generally be borrowed back if you need cash.

Undoubtedly, the biggest

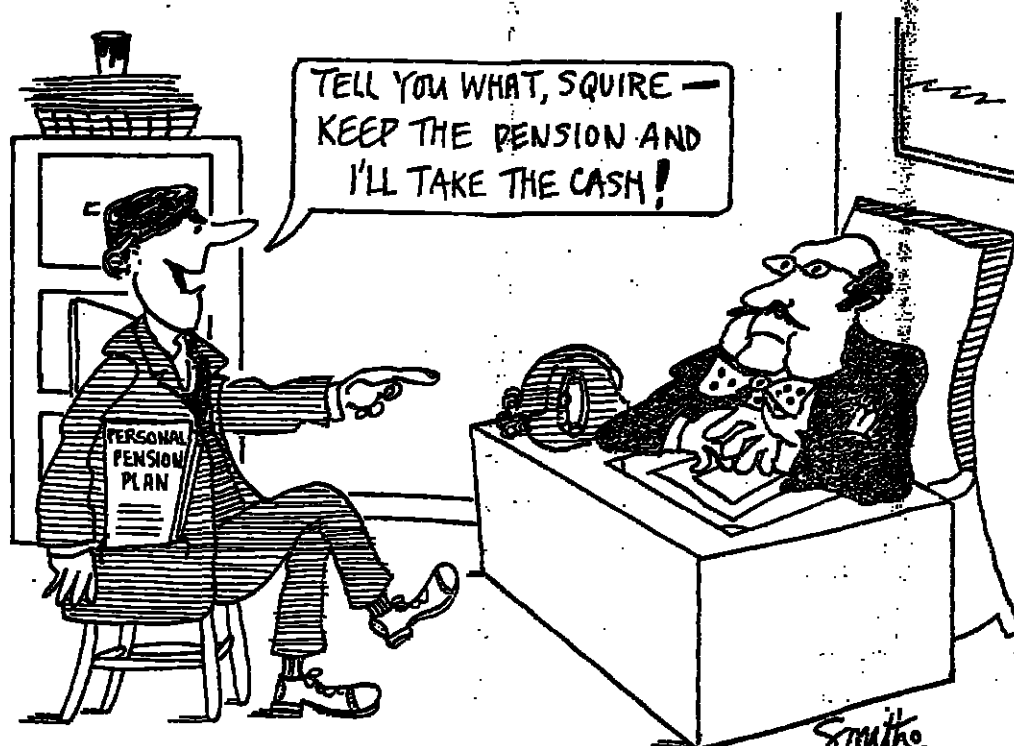
problem for employees without a company pension scheme is finding out where to go for impartial advice. The Society of Pension Consultants (Ludgate House, Ludgate Circus, London EC4A 3DF; Tel: 01-353 1688) will be happy to recommend one of its members as will the British Insurance Brokers Association (Fountain House, 130 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 8DJ; Tel: 01-623 9043). Their advice is generally free, since they earn commission on any pension policy you eventually decide to buy.

If you want to make your own arrangements, here are some guidelines. Pension policies come in two basic types — conventional "with profits" schemes which are similar to the familiar, with-profits endowment policies, or a unit-linked scheme. With a unit-linked pension plan your contributions buy units in a fund — rather like a unit trust — and at retirement the accumulated value of all your units is used to buy pension benefits.

Both types of scheme pay a pension on retirement, plus a lump sum benefit. The drawback with the unit-linked schemes is that benefits are directly related to fluctuations in share prices. If retirement happens to coincide with a collapse in share prices you will do less well. On the other hand, in the good years, unit-linked policies tend to outperform the conventional with-profits schemes, sometimes by a substantial margin.

The best course of action for someone who has made no pension provision is to start with a conventional, with-profits pension to provide a basic minimum benefit, and buy the more risky unit-linked policies as back-up.

Performance tables published by Money Management magazine show that half a dozen insurance companies stand head and shoulders above their rivals, and have



regularly outperformed the competition. Looking at the actual pensions paid on traditional with-profits pension schemes, companies which have consistently performed well over both the short, medium and long term are Equitable Life, National Provident, Norwich Union and Provident Mutual.

The Pru compares well over 15 years and 20 years while Yorkshire General, a comparative newcomer to the pension field, has notched up an impressive performance over the 10 year period.

A contribution of £500 a year over the last 10 years would have produced an annual pension of £1,832 a year with National Provident compared with a pension of only £1,095 from one of the worst performing companies. The basic rate taxpayer would have obtained tax relief of £150 a year on these contributions so that net cost over the 10 year period works out at £3,500. At this rate you have to survive only 2 years in retirement to get your money back.

Unlike life policies, you do not have to make regular payments into a pension policy to qualify for the tax relief. You can make one-off

single premium payments adjusting the contributions each year to suit your pocket. Instead of having one policy paid for by regular contributions, you have a series of single premium policies, which gives you greater flexibility but the net effect will be very similar. Those companies which come out best in terms of regular premium policies tend to perform well with the single premium version.

Unit-linked pension schemes are a relatively recent concept and most companies can show no more than a five-year track record with only one or two having been in existence for ten years or more.

Here again, those companies that perform well for regular premium policies tend to come out among the top half dozen for single premium schemes as well. Top performer over 10 years is M & G Personal Pension scheme with Hambro Property and Managed schemes running a close second and third. Regular premiums of £500 a year would have produced an accumulated fund of £12,657 with M & G or £11,811 and £10,591 with

the two Hambro funds respectively.

Over the shorter five year term top performer is a pension linked to Save & Prosper's Property Fund, with two Welfare Life funds in second place and M & G at number three. If you have been in non-pensionable employment for some years (or have been self-employed) it will almost certainly be possible to relate some of your pension premiums to previous year's earnings. The provisions for doing this are complicated, but the insurance company will generally be only too pleased to do the sums.

There is nothing to be lost by approaching two or three companies and comparing their advice, service and quotations. It is also worth asking — in every case — what happens to your contributions if you die before retirement. You will also need to know details of any widow's or dependants pension. Most companies at least return your contributions and in many instances, add interest. However some pension schemes still provide nothing at all — so do not be afraid to ask.

Lorna Bourke

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## Account ends on firm note

6 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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**Edited by Peter Davalle**

ITV / LONDON

**Radio 1**

As Radio 2, 7.00 Wake Up to Weekend, 8.00 Tony Blackburn, 9.00 Paul Burnett, 1.00pm Adrian Martin, 2.00 A King in New York, 3.00 Paul Gambaccini, 4.00 Walter's, 5.00 Rock On, 6.30 in the Art, 7.30 Close.

Radio 1 and 2: 5.00am With the 2, 1.00pm With Radio 1, 7.30am With Radio 2.

**World Service**

World Service can be received in a range of medium wave, 645 kHz at the following times GMT: 8.00 AM, 6.30 Terry Wogan's Afternoon News, 7.00 News About Britain, From the Weeklies, 7.30 Classical

[illegible]

**2 VHF 85-91MHz. Radio 3**  
**F 720kHz 4417m. LBC MF**  
**HF 94 9MHz. World Service**

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**HTV**

**Adventures of Black Beauty.**  
**Sesame Street. 11.20 Space**  
**12.13pm-12.15 News 5.45 Sale**  
**Century. 6-15-5.45 Jingles.**  
**Place Presents: Henry Mancini.**  
**am Closedown.**

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**TV CYMRU/WALES**

**Y Wlad except: 9.55 am-10.20**  
**am. 5.15-5.45 Sion a Sŵn.**

**GRAMPIAN**  
don except: Starts 9.35 am  
Sun. 10.00 Tarzan. 10.50-  
Wedmore Back Kottler. 5.45-  
Chips. 11.15 Potstickers. 11.20  
to It Under Fear. (Maureen  
2). Neurotic Librarian believes  
the key to two cases of  
12.40 am Closedown.

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**ANGLIA**  
don except: Starts 9.00 am  
Sun. Street. 10.00 Sport Billy  
Thunderbirds. 11.20-12.15 pm  
5.45-6.45 Chips. 11.15 Vegas.  
am That's Hollywood. 12.45 At  
the Door, Closedown.

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**ONE SYMBOLS MEAN: + STEREO**

**Radio 1**

As Radio 2 8.00 Tony  
10.00 Rosko 12.30 pm  
Savile 2.30 Radio B15 4.00  
Ambacchini 5.00 Top 40 7.00  
Kenny Rogers 8.00  
Close 11.15 RADIOS 1 AND 2  
With Radio 2 5.00 pm With  
10.0-5.0 am With Radio 2

**World Service**

World Service can be received  
in Europe in medium wave 648 kHz  
at the following times: GMT:- 6.00  
6.30 Jazz for the Asking 7.00  
News 7.05 News about Britain 7.15  
The Owen Correspondent 7.30 Social  
Company 8.00 World News 8.05  
8.15 The Pleasure's Yours 8.05  
8.05 Renewal of the British  
15.00 pm From 9.45

11.30 Service, 11.30 World News,  
 11.45 about Britain, 11.15 Leisure  
 11.30 Play of the Week, 12.30  
 Performance, 1.00 World News,  
 1.15 Books, 1.30  
 1.45 The Tony Martin Request  
 2.00 Males Men Laugh, 3.00 Radio  
 3.15 News, 3.30 News, 3.45  
 4.00 Commentary, 4.15 From our  
 own editors, 5.00 World News, 5.09  
 News, 5.15 News, 5.25  
 6.00 The Poem Islet, 9.15 The  
 Years, 10.00 World News, 10.09  
 Action, 10.40 Reflections, 10.45  
 11.00 World News, 11.09  
 11.15 Letter from America,  
 11.25 News, 11.30  
 12.09 News about Britain, 12.15  
 Review, 12.30 Religious Service,  
 12.45 News, 1.00 News, 1.09  
 1.30 Presenter, 1.45 Tony's Company,  
 1.55 News, 2.00 News, 2.09  
 2.15 The Moon and Space, 2.30  
 3.00 World News, 3.09 News,  
 3.15 News, 3.30 News, 3.45  
 Anything Goes, 4.45 Words 4.50  
 Choice, 4.55 Reflections 5.00  
 5.05 News, 5.15 News, 5.25  
 5.45 The Poem Islet

**HTV**  
 on except: Starts 9.00 am  
 Camera Street, 11.30-12.00 Me  
 Camera, 1.00 pm University  
 1.30 Farming Diary, 2.00-  
 C. Clarke's Mysterious  
 30 Welcome Back, Kotter,  
 Film: One More Train to Rob  
 Peppard, Diana Mulcaugh,  
 ber goes in search of his  
 the hotel service, tell  
 7.15-7.45 Two of Us, 11.50  
 12.20 am Closedown.

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**CYMRU/WALES**  
 West except: 2.00 pm-3.30  
 umtime, 3.30-4.00 Dwy

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**YORKSHIRE**  
 on except: Starts 9.00am  
 n, 9.25 Gardening Time,  
 10.00 Bubbles, 11.00 Me and My  
 11.30-12.00 Farming Diary,  
 University Challenge, 1.30

**C. Clarke's Mysterious**  
100-8.40 Film: Train Robbers  
A widow asks three  
to help to clear her family's  
retrieving a fortune in gold.  
Different Strokes. 11.50 Five  
11.55 Lifetime. 12.50  
m.

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**TSW**

in except: Starts 9.25am  
first. 8.30-10.00 Getting On.  
and My Camera. 11.30-  
with West Week. 1.00pm  
Challenge. 1.50 Farming  
10.2-10.30 News For All. 3.30  
Clarke's Mysterious World.  
Emily, Emily (John Forsythe)  
teenager falls for his  
3.30-6.00 Gambit. 7.15  
Strokes. 7.45-8.45 Haves  
1.50 Great Depression.  
Postscript. 12.56 Closedown.



